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Russian days of reform 'are ending'

Gorbachev's future looks bleak US says

From Martin Fletcher in Washington and Bruce Clark in Moscow

THE US State Department, hitherto one of President Gorbachev's strongest supporters in the American administration, believes that the Soviet leader's days as a champion of reform are probably over and that a period of harsh repression could be on the way, with or without him at the helm.

The progressive forces Mr Gorbachev has unleashed within his troubled country are ultimately "irreversible", one of the administration's top Soviet experts said this week, but in the near term the political outlook was bleak.

In a surprisingly pessimistic interview, he spoke of a possibly devastating crackdown on secessionist republics and opposition groups, and gave a warning of potentially grave consequences for US-Soviet relations.

Further evidence of Mr Gorbachev's difficulties came in Moscow yesterday as he struggled to win the supreme legislature's approval for a new union treaty. Originally seen as the underpinning for his reforms, to be in place by the end of the year, there is almost no prospect of even an agreement in principle by that deadline. Only Belorussia, Turkmenia and Azerbaijan, which is under a heavy military presence, are in favour of the draft treaty. The Baltic republics, Armenia, Moldavia and Georgia will not agree to any new treaty and others want modifications.

The Latvian government yesterday denounced a "planned scenario whose final goal is to enable Moscow to impose a state of emergency and introduce presidential rule".

Publicly, President Bush and top officials still express confidence in Mr Gorbachev: last week announcing a substantial aid programme "to help the Soviet Union stay the course of democratisation and to undertake market reforms".

Yesterday, the Soviet expert said that Mr Gorbachev had become an indispensable ally in international affairs, and because Soviet support in the Gulf confrontation was so critical, "we may give him a little more benefit of the doubt".

But privately, the administration is starting to hedge its bets, though it has not completely written off Mr Gorbachev. It has intensified efforts to cultivate leaders of the Soviet republics and radical reformers who, it believes, will eventually come to power. At the moment, America has just one consulate outside Moscow, in Leningrad, but it is opening another in Kiev early next year and has plans for four or five more around the Soviet Union.

In Houston last week James Baker, the US Secretary of State, told Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, of the administration's concern at Moscow's increasingly authoritarian stance and warned that a crackdown, particularly in the Baltic states, would jeopardise relations with Washington. The administration ensured that this view reached the public domain.

The biggest lever America has over Moscow is economic. Mr Bush last week suspended trade restrictions to allow Moscow $1 billion of agricultural credits and dangled the prospect of normalised trade relations in every field. However, the waiver must by law be reviewed next July, a fact the official described as "not inconvenient".

The State Department believes Mr Gorbachev lost his nerve last autumn and turned his back on his last chance of radical economic reform, perhaps fearing the greater power this would give secessionist republics. Since then he has fallen back on the old party apparatus, "trying to put back together what he himself had pulled asunder" and "digging a deeper and deeper hole for the Soviet economy", the official said.

It was hard to see how he could ever re-emerge as a credible reformer, because his attempts to hold the country together would have polarised opinion. His proposed union treaty, offering only very limited autonomy to the republics, ran directly counter to their aspirations and could only mean confrontation. When that confrontation comes, "whether its next month or next spring, the temptation will be to move further to the right", perhaps jettisoning large elements of political as well as economic reform.

The State Department does not exclude the possibility that Mr Gorbachev might resign rather than admit defeat by imposing martial law on rebellious republics, that the pressures could wreck his health, or that he could be ousted, possibly by a coalition of Communist party, military and KGB conservatives who are already using "crude propaganda" to blame the pro-democracy movement for the country's disintegration.

Certainly, the official said, the odds are that the present Mr Gorbachev will be succeeded either by a hardline Mr Gorbachev, or a conventional hardliner, than by a radical reformer, and that could well herald "a period of repression which could be devastating for the health of the society".

But Washington does not anticipate another 40-year cold war. A hard-line regime could not succeed, certainly not economically, the official said. In the long term, perestroika and the process of democratisation were irreversible, "though there may be some unpleasant detours before they get back on track". They could be slowed and temporarily checked, but not reversed.

Deputies walk out, page 10

An eye to the future: Gorbachev facing hostility at home and a loss of confidence abroad

Treasury ready for interest rate to fall sooner than expected

By Anatole Kaletsky, Economics Editor

THE government will cut British interest rates in line with falling inflation even if sterling remains in the bottom half of the European exchange-rate mechanism, senior officials disclosed yesterday. The government will not feel obliged to wait for sterling to reach any particular level before it considers the next cut in rates.

The Treasury is looking not at the pound's precise level, but at its direction of movement and its general stability within ERM. It will give the Chancellor more room for manouevre in the face of a recession which officials admit is deeper than expected. The Treasury is now revising downwards the economic forecasts released by the Chancellor, in his autumn economic statement.

Mr Lamont said last week that there could be "no question of a reduction in interest rates that is not fully justified by our position in the ERM". This was seen as ruling out the widely-expected cut in interest rates for the foreseeable future. As a result, the Chancellor was widely criticised for having boxed himself into a dangerously inflexible policy in the midst of the steadily worsening recession. In a Commons statement yesterday, the prime minister also ruled out an immediate cut in interest rates.

It now appears, however, that interest rates could come down in the new year, provided only that sterling does not continue falling and that it stabilises somewhere comfortably above its ERM floor of DM2.78 against the German Mark. This condition should be easier to satisfy than the substantial strengthening of sterling which Mr Lamont was thought to be demanding.

According to the Treasury, the exact level of sterling in the ERM is irrelevant, provided that it is comfortably above the bottom of the band. What matters is that the markets and the pay bargainers understand that the country will defend the band as a whole with absolute determination.

Once investors accept that there is no chance that sterling will be allowed to fall below the bottom of its ERM band, officials believe that market sentiment will improve and the pound will strengthen or at least stabilise. This will allow interest rates to be reduced.

Officials believe that the weakening of the economywill lead to even faster falls in inflation than expected. This, they believe, should boost market confidence in sterling and allow interest rates to be lowered without undermining the currency. They acknowledge, however, that the ERM constraint will slow down the process of interest rate reduction and probably lead to a deeper recession than Britain might have suffered outside the ERM. But this cost will be offset by a bigger improvement in inflation.

INSIDE

CHRISTMAS IN THE TIMES

Books with a slight list

Insults, addresses, proverbs, etiquette: books of lists can be the salvation of desperate present hunters. Chris Peachment raids the bookshelves

ARTS, PAGE 17

Christies' cutbacks

Lord Carrington, the chairman, and all other directors of Christies International, are having their fees frozen. Christies yesterday said that it was making 145 people redundant throughout its worldwide operations and expected to save 10 per cent of staff costs. ..... Page 21
Comment Page 23

£4m for RSC

The Royal Shakespeare Company, which closed its London operation for the winter to save £1.5 million, has won £4 million from the Arts Council's enhancement fund Page 3
Leading article, page 13

Casualty Koch

Ed Koch (above), the former mayor of New York, came face to face with violence in the old city of Jerusalem yesterday, when a stone, thrown by an unknown assailant, cut his head ..... Page 9

Adams banned

Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender sent off against Luton two weeks ago, has had a three-match suspension confirmed by the Football Association ..... Page 34

INDEX

'Bizarre' switch of Soviet troops

From Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent
in Brussels

THE Soviet military has switched up to three motor rifle divisions, totalling about 40,000 troops, from the army to the navy in an apparent attempt to exclude the tanks and artillery deployed with the units from being counted under the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, according to defence sources.

The army units have been redesignated as "coastal defence divisions". The transfer took place before November 19, the day the CFE treaty was signed by the 22 members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact at the summit in Paris. The attempt to circumvent the treaty before it has been ratified apparently caused astonishment, not just in Western capitals but also at the Soviet foreign ministry.

One source said that Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, did not appear to be aware of what the military had done. "We don't believe that Shevardnadze would have tried this on," the source said. "He was every bit as surprised as we were. The whole thing is bizarre."

At the end of a two-day Nato North Atlantic Council meeting of foreign ministers yesterday, James Baker, the American secretary of state, said the Soviet Union was guilty of two potential contraventions of the CFE treaty. He referred to the discrepancy between the Soviet figures for equipment in the area covered by the treaty and Western estimates, and added: "The other problem is the question how they treat naval inventory."

£96m move to help homeless

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

THE government yesterday announced the immediate provision of 1,000 new bedspaces as the first step in a £96 million initiative to clear the streets of London and other main cities of homeless people sleeping rough.

Sir George Young, the housing and planning minister, approved schemes that will provide 320 hostel spaces run by voluntary groups in addition to the 140 announced in October, giving direct access for 460 people sleeping rough in London. There will also be 700 places provided by housing associations in shared and self-contained flats and houses for people in hostels to move on to, and which will become available from February.

The initiative comes in the wake of John Major's declared priority, when he became prime minister, to to tackle the problem of the homeless. Sir George said that the first emergency places could be provided by the end of this week in the first of a number of schemes by St Mungo's housing association, but most would not be available until the new year.

All the new places will be funded from the initial £15 million provision announced by the government in June, but an extra £81 million, giving a total of £96 million over the next two years, should bring several thousand more beds into use in the hope of eradicating the long-term scar on the face of London and other cities.

Under the new initiative hostels will be provided by the Church Housing Association, Providence Row Housing Association, St Mungo's, Shaftesbury and Centrepoint. Threshold housing associations, with an emphasis on action in the Waterloo and Victoria areas. Nick Hardwick, director of Centrepoint, has joined the environment department for six months to work on the development of the initiative.

Once the London initiative is under way, the government intends to extend it to other areas of the country where people are sleeping rough, but Sir George said that London was the first object for attention because that was where the problem was worst.

The initiative found no favour with Clive Soley, Labour's shadow housing minister, who said it was "the same old policies in Christmas wrapping." In the Commons, Neil Kinnock, the opposition leader, joined issue with the prime minister over the number of homeless people, claiming that new house building was now at its lowest level since the first world war. Rejecting the criticism Mr Major praised the voluntary housing movement, the housing associations and the action taken on homelessness.

Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter, said: "We are dismayed at the fact that this is not new money, is only for the capital, and is no substitute for a proper, national housing policy."

The debate, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Weekend trip to Gulf for Prince of Wales

By Alan Hamilton and Andrew McEwen

THE Prince of Wales will visit British troops in Saudi Arabia this weekend, at a time when the prospects for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf stalemate appear to be diminishing by the day.

For security reasons, details of the prince's itinerary are not being made public, but Buckingham Palace said that he will spend Saturday and Sunday on a pre-Christmas morale-boosting tour of British forces arraigned against President Saddam Hussein's occupying forces in Kuwait.

The announcement coincided with a decision by European Community foreign meeting in Brussels not to enter into a dialogue with Baghdad until Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, first agrees to meet President Bush.

"Europe does not want to lend itself to any bid by Iraq to drive a wedge between the EC and the United States," said Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister.

"A meeting will take place if Aziz goes to Washington first," added Gerald Collins, the Irish foreign minister.

The tough EC response to the call for talks appeared not to have had any effect on President Saddam, who has until January 15 to withdraw his forces from Kuwait or face being forced out. In a Turkish television interview yesterday,

Continued on page 20, col 2

Britain to stand by Social Charter veto

From Peter Guilford in Brussels

MICHAEL Howard, the employment secretary, has reaffirmed that Britain would never allow its veto over the European Community's Social Charter to be abolished by changes to the EC's treaty. This will help to dispel Conservative fears that John Major, the prime minister, was softening Britain's opposition to EC social policy during the Rome summit at the weekend.

"Changing the Treaty of Rome will not work," Mr Howard said during an emergency meeting of EC social affairs ministers in Brussels yesterday. The government saw no case for extending majority voting into the realm of social legislation, he said.

Italy called the meeting in an effort to push through laws on temporary employment and improve its flagging reputation on social matters before stepping down from the EC presidency at the end of the month. But the ministers only approved health and safety rules for part-time workers, failing again to agree on more radical measures guaranteeing equal treatment for temporary and full-time employees.

Mr Howard said there was now widespread opposition among EC states to many key measures within the social charter, and even "unanimous disapproval" for full regulations for part-time work at a Community level. But Britain appears willing to separate out some of the 50-odd elements of the charter for approval and reject those it dislikes, instead of dismissing the entire charter out of hand, he said. This marks a distinct change of tone from Mrs Thatcher.

Letters, page 13

Poles dream of a Kalashnikov for Christmas

From Roger Boyes in Warsaw

FOR Poles who have everything (and there are a few), the perfect Christmas present: a well oiled, only slightly-used Kalashnikov for £200.

The place to go is the Bazar Rozyckiego, a sprawling open market in the battered Warsaw district of Praga, a convenient drive from the Soviet army barracks. In the bazar, as in Harrods, you can buy anything, from pregnant hamsters to rare medicines, from caviar by the kilo to cordless telephones shaped like Mickey Mouse. Here criminal meets criminal, and criminal meets victim.

The real boom is for Soviet army memorabilia. What could be more memorable than a Kalashnikov? "Surprise your husband, darling," cackles a crone who would, in normal times, be selling wild berries or basketwork.

Andrej has the details, neatly typed on a piece of paper pinned to the wooden slats of his stall. A bazooka for £450 sounds a bargain. The most popular buy is the bulky Soviet officer's pistol, big enough to scare any bank clerk.

The savants say to hold off, since prices will tumble next year when Soviet troops are transported home from Germany, through Poland. Eight troop trains a day for the next four years. No stops are envisaged but the soldiers will be travelling at night: no doubt convenient signal stops can be arranged.

The arms market in eastern parts of Germany is said to undercut the Poles on Kalashnikovs. But who can afford to shop in Germany? And there are so few shopping days left to Christmas.

Poland is in the grips of a gun craze. Coshes went out with communism and criminals regard guns as status symbols. Potential victims are arming up, too, and many of the *nouveaux riches* are now two-gun households.

There has always been a large armoury of hunting weapons; some 140,000 rifles are registered. Communist officials who were issued with handguns to protect themselves against the counter revolution are hanging on to their weapons for sentimental reasons, even though they should have returned them to the police.

The legalisation of gas guns has transformed the situation. So far, Warsaw claims 20,000 registered owners. On top of that, hundreds are being smuggled in from Germany each week.

But for masculine mystique you can't beat the Kalashnikov. The result is a rash of break-ins at Polish armouries and losses from Soviet garrisons. Some Soviet army units are now forbidden to take arms out of barracks because so many are "lost" on exercises.

Hospitals in London to be cushioned from market impact

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government has decided to cushion London hospitals from the full impact of an internal market in the health service, in an effort to minimise turbulence when the reforms are implemented in April.

Announcing revenue and capital allocations for the 14 English regions, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said that every health authority would get at least 4 per cent growth in 1991/2. He said, however, that he had delayed plans to alter cash allocations to reflect local populations, a vital component of the internal market.

Regions will get £14.8 billion to spend on revenue, which is nearly £1.5 billion extra, and £1.5 billion on capital, which is up £182 million. About £400 million has been reserved for central initiatives such as waiting lists, medical audit and nurse training, which will be announced shortly.

Under the government's plans for an internal market, allocations to regions – now based on the people they treat – were to be based instead on the resident population. Hospitals in London, which treat patients from all over the South-East, would be able to make up the money by charging the district that referred the patient.

Because of the financial difficulties now facing the capital, however, and the uncertainty about how many patients they would continue to attract from outside London, Mr Waldegrave has decided to slow the pace of change.

More than 1,000 beds have already been shut in London over the past 12 months for financial reasons, and many hospitals are reduced to emergency only admissions. Some progress would still be made towards weighted capitation, he said, "but at a slower rate than previously envisaged". Mr Waldegrave would not say when the new system of funding would come into force.

He also failed to give details on how much money had been reserved for capital funds for NHS trusts. Although some of that money will be included in the regional allocations announced yesterday, the government will shortly disclose how much trusts will be able to borrow from the Treasury or the private sector.

Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said: "The allocations are consistent with the 'steady state' approach to avoid turbulence in the first year of the NHS reforms."

Meanwhile, Stephen Dorrell, a junior health minister, disclosed in a written parliamentary reply that the number of districts in deficit had fallen from 122 in 1989/90 to 51 by the end of September this year, and that most would clear them by next March.

The health districts most deeply in debt include: Lewisham and North Southwark (£3.6 million); West Lambeth (£3.1 million); Camberwell (£2.3 million); East Surrey (£2.3 million); Parkside (£1.7 million); Bloomsbury (£1.7 million); West Essex (£1.5 million); and Leeds Western (£1.5 million).

1991/92 REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY ALLOCATION

	Revenue £cash (m)	Revenue real terms % increase	Capital £cash (m)	Capital real terms % increase
Northern	980.4	4.0	79.7	12.4
Yorkshire	1,123.0	4.5	92.8	10.1
Trent	1,411.7	4.2	117.0	9.8
E Anglian	598.1	5.4	51.3	17.2
NW Thames	1,086.5	4.0	79.2	9.0
NE Thames	1,300.8	4.0	90.3	9.0
SE Thames	1,229.8	4.0	93.3	9.0
SW Thames	929.0	5.1	72.7	10.1
Wessex	876.5	5.5	77.1	9.0
Oxford	682.9	4.0	57.1	12.5
S Western	999.3	6.1	85.3	10.0
W Midlands	1,573.1	4.0	136.4	9.0
Mersey	774.9	4.0	62.6	9.0
N Western	1,287.7	4.0	108.4	9.0
All regions	14,853.7	4.4	1,203.2	10.0

Making tracks: Chieftain tanks rumble into action during manoeuvres in Germany this summer, a scene that won Corporal Stephen Baillie, of the RAOC, the 1990 Army photograph of the year award

Local party criticises Field

By RONALD FAUX

LABOUR party leaders in Birkenhead yesterday accused Frank Field, their MP, of a campaign to harangue and vilify anyone disagreeing with him. As Neil Kinnock and senior colleagues met in London to decide what action to take over the troubled constituency association, Sue Williams, chairman of the Birkenhead party, said: "People are cheesed off with what Frank Field has been saying about everyone.

"Now he is including party headquarters in the attacks. People here are wondering whether someone who makes so many accusations about mis-managing political funds or who describes others as pigs with their snouts in the trough is the sort of person they want as their MP. All we are after is to have an MP selected and Kinnock into Downing Street." It seems that Mr Field's letter of December 7 to Mr Kinnock containing allegations of a failure by Labour's national executive committee (NEC) to tackle Militant infiltration of his local party has won him little support in his constituency or at headquarters. Until all NEC recommendations for the local party are carried out, Mr Field said, he would not stand for a new reselection process required by the NEC to replace one in which he was dropped.

Britain to be pressed by EC for cuts in fish quotas

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will face severe pressure to accept drastic cuts in its fish catch when European Community ministers meet in Brussels today. The meeting, to fix fishing levels for the coming year, is against a background of scientific evidence of an alarming decline in North Sea fishery stocks.

The European commission wants to back cuts in catch quotas with changes in the mesh size of nets, to reduce the catch of immature fish that have not had time to spawn, and to make cod and haddock fishermen leave their boats in port for ten consecutive days every month.

John Gummer, the agriculture and fisheries minister, accepts the need for a reduction in fishing, but will reject the Brussels package as far too severe. He told the Commons last week that some of the proposals had been "devised by people who do not know one end of a net or one kind of a fish from another".

Bob Allan, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, which depends on cod, haddock and whiting for 60 per cent of its whitefish catch, yesterday called the proposals "a lethal cocktail" that would make fishing uneconomic for hundreds of trawlermen. "The ten-day limit will force skippers to take risks to maximise their catch during the rest of the month," he said. "We will see crews doubling up to keep boats at sea overnight and at weekends and in bad weather when it would be prudent to stay in port. I fear the results could be tragic."

Richard Banks, of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, representing fishermen in England and Wales, said: "These proposals are a recipe for anarchy because they will be impossible to enforce. There will be illegal landings and under-reporting of catches."

The proposals by Señor Manuel Marin, the EC fisheries commissioner, are based on scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea that a 30 per cent cut is needed next year in fishing in the North Sea and off the west of Scotland to allow depleted spawning stocks of cod and haddock to recover.

Since 1982, the "spawning stock biomass", the weight of adult fish capable of laying eggs, has fallen from 168,000 tonnes to 78,000 tonnes of cod, and from 285,000 tonnes to an estimated 81,000 tonnes of haddock. Scientists think fishing pressure is partly to blame, but changes in water temperature and other factors may also have lowered the survival rate of juvenile fish.

The Brussels proposals would hit Britain harder than other EC countries, because of its dependence on the North Sea fishery. The British catch quota for cod and haddock would be cut by 14 per cent to 40,210 tonnes and 31,360 tonnes respectively. Two years ago, Britain's cod quota was 71,000 tonnes and its haddock quota 128,500 tonnes.

Brussels also wants cuts ranging from 9 to 46 per cent in the EC catch of cod, haddock, whiting and saithe off the west coast of Scotland. This would also hit Britain hard. In Scotland alone, 8,800 people are directly employed by the fishing industry. A further 16,500 earn a living from fish processing.

Leading article, page 13

Soldiers will not be prosecuted for killing

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

UNDERCOVER soldiers who killed three robbers outside a Belfast betting shop in January in a shooting that gave rise to allegations of a "shoot-to-kill" policy will not be prosecuted, it was disclosed last night.

Alastair Frazer, the Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland, has accepted a police recommendation that the two soldiers should not face criminal charges. They told investigating officers from the Royal Ulster Constabulary that they feared they would be shot when they stumbled across the robbery while on plain-clothes duty, although it was later confirmed the gang's weapons were replicas.

Eddie Hale, aged 25, Peter Thompson, aged 21, and John McNeill, aged 44, all Catholics, were shot by two soldiers from the 14th Intelligence Company after an attempted raid on the shop on the Falls Road. Hale and Thompson were shot as they emerged through the front door while McNeill was shot dead behind the wheel of his car.

Witnesses said none of the gang opened fire before they were killed without warning, and alleged that the soldiers used unreasonable force.

A fourth robber, who escaped but was later traced and questioned by police, will not face charges either, the DPP said.

Republicans alleged that the four men had been under surveillance for some time before the shooting. Joseph Thompson, father of Peter Thompson, said last night: "This is a sad day for British justice. I will now consider taking a civil action against the Ministry of Defence."

Dr Joe Hendon, a city councillor and leading member of the Catholic SDLP in west Belfast, said he was outraged. "This is a dark day for policing in Northern Ireland," he added.

TUC ruling for union

The Transport and General Workers' Union will today be told that it has one month to abide by a TUC disciplinary ruling to exclude members allegedly "poached" from sister organisations, or face expulsion from the movement (Tim Jones writes).

The development comes at a time when the TGWU, faced with declining membership and a wages bill of more than £25 million, is trying to cut losses of £100,000 a week by shedding more than 200 jobs and imposing other cost-cutting measures.

The issue involves about 100 workers at the Rover Group assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford, and hundreds of Coventry city council employees. Poaching members is one of the most serious allegations under the TUC code of conduct.

Record claims

Claimants for injuries caused by crime are facing lengthy delays because of the record number of cases coming before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, according to its annual report yesterday. The board received 53,655 new applications in 1989/90, 10,000 more than the year before, and awarded £72,721,563 compensation, the highest sum since the scheme began in 1964.

Strike damages

A striking miner who was falsely arrested, beaten up by police and then maliciously prosecuted during the miner's strike was awarded £60,000 damages in the High Court at Leeds yesterday. Raymond Riley, now aged 32, was a face worker in 1984 at Frickley Colliery, Yorkshire, during the year-long strike. The jury awarded a total of £60,000 damages, of which £50,000 was exemplary.

Apology to poet

Ted Hughes, the Poet Laureate, accepted apologies at the High Court in London yesterday for a suggestion that he attended a high-spirited party on the evening of the funeral of his first wife, the poet Sylvia Plath. Katie Malpass, counsel for Mr Hughes, told Mr Justice Drake that the comment appeared in memoirs by the art historian Professor Trevor Thomas, who has now agreed that he was mistaken.

Teaching fears

Government figures published yesterday showed that secondary schools could be short of around 17,000 teachers in 1997 if teacher recruiting did not continue to improve. Michael Fallon, the junior schools minister, said that government measures would improve the situation.

● Vince Wright

Firemen awarded £34,000 for trauma after King's Cross

By Bill Frost

FOUR firemen who suffered psychological stress in the aftermath of the King's Cross fire were yesterday awarded a total of £34,000 agreed High Court damages against London Underground.

The men are the first members of the emergency services to receive compensation for almost purely psychological injuries. Dr Peter Curran, a leading specialist in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), yesterday hailed the settlement as the first recognition by the judiciary in England and Wales that the syndrome was a "legal entity".

The four were in court as tribute was paid by Allan Gore, their counsel, to their courage on the night of the fire, in which 31 people died. A number of people "owed their lives to the four men", he said.

The firemen settled their damages action just before their claims were to be heard. Judge Russell Vick, QC, awarded damages by consent against London Underground, which had admitted liability.

The men, who will have their legal costs met by London Underground, are Greg Piggot, aged 27, from Hampstead, northwest London (awarded £13,000); Manjit Singh, aged 36, from Erith, south London (£8,500); Sean Clarke, aged 32, of Islington, north London (£8,500); and Joseph Boland, aged 32, of Ilford, northeast London (£4,000).

The High Court was told that the four had been in the first rank of firefighters to reach King's Cross underground station on the night of the fire on November 18, 1987. Mr Singh and Mr Boland had time to put on breathing apparatus before the "flashover fire", but were unable to operate it. Other officers, including Mr Clarke, had started to put on firefighting equipment and were in the middle of laying hosepipes into the station.

Mr Piggot narrowly escaped, but three other officers with him were caught in the intense heat of the flashover. "It is impossible for words to describe the circumstances that then arose: utter blackness and the impossibility of vision," Mr Gore said. It was clear that they had earned the gratitude of many as a result of their bravery that night.

Three of the officers had scalding, cuts and bruises, the High Court was told. The most serious damage, however, had been psychological.

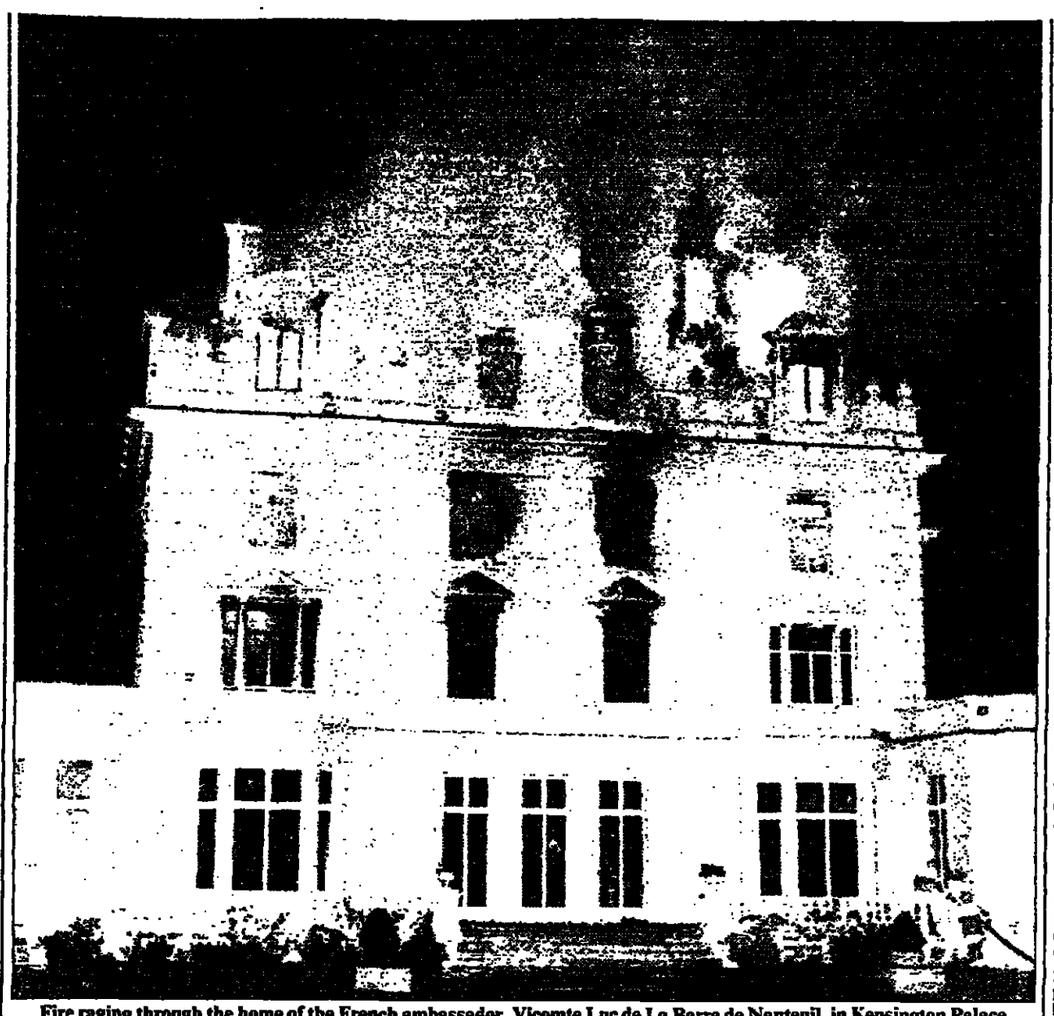
Dr Curran, a consultant psychiatrist at the Mater Infirmorum in Belfast and a specialist in PTSD, said yesterday: "Judges on the mainland have been wary of people who claim compensation but have not suffered a physical injury. Plainly, they are now willing to accept the concept of psychological trauma and award quite large damages."

He has treated many such victims and said the symptoms of PTSD could be emotionally crippling. The syndrome, first identified among veterans of the Vietnam war, included flashbacks to the incident, nightmares, an inability to maintain previously close relationships and alcohol or drug abuse.

Those suffering the disorder would often try to block out the experience. When they failed, symptoms would include sleeplessness, anger and extreme jumpiness, Dr Curran said. The prognosis for emergency workers at the scene of disasters such as the King's Cross fire who had suffered PTSD was good, he said.

"By and large, the syndrome evaporates with time. The treatment is two-fold. Anti-depressant drugs can be used, but the best method is group therapy, getting fellow sufferers together to talk out the trauma," he said.

Yesterday's High Court award could open the floodgates to similar claims from emergency services workers who have attended the scenes of tragedies. David Arkwright, the lawyer who represented victims of the Abbeystead pumping station explosion, in which 16 people died in 1984, said: "A benchmark would seem to have been established."



Fire raging through the home of the French ambassador, Vicomte Luc de La Barre de Nanteuil, in Kensington Palace Gardens, west London, early yesterday. The mansion was being refurbished and the ambassador had moved out

£4m more for RSC ensures Barbican reopening

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Shakespeare Company, which has closed its London headquarters at the Barbican for the winter to prevent its £2.9 million deficit rising to £4.4 million, has won £4 million over the next three years from the Arts Council's enhancement fund, plus an 8 per cent increase on its basic subsidy. This should ensure that the RSC reopens in the Barbican next autumn.

The South Bank Arts Centre and the Royal Opera House remain in financial difficulty, however. The South Bank, which has wiped out its £1.1 million revenue deficit but still has to make further cuts of £500,000, is to receive nothing from the enhancement fund. It will get only an extra 5.5 per cent next year against 8 per cent for the other major companies.

Richard Pulford, the South Bank's administrative director, said: " We are being penalised for the excellence of our systems. We have shown what we can do, and are being punished for it." Urgent repairs to the Festival Hall will have to be deferred, he said.

The 12.4 per cent increase for the Royal Opera House, including £500,000 for ballet and £200,000 for opera from the fund, will leave it in serious difficulty. The opera house is anticipating a £4.2 million deficit. Jeremy Isaacs, general director, said that there will be more cancellations of new productions, job losses and other savings to be made.

Anthony Everitt, secretary general of the Arts Council, said that the allocation of money from the enhancement fund was on the basis of the excellence of work, but Mr Pulford added: "There has never been any complaint from the Arts Council or anyone else that our work was not of the highest quality."

Three of the five national arts companies, the RSC, the Royal Opera House and English National Opera, have benefited from the enhancement fund.

The RSC's extra funding gives it an overall increase of 30 per cent for next year to £7.9 million.

English National Opera, which faces a £1 million deficit, has been given £600,000 from the enhancement fund and 8 per cent on its basic revenue, making a total 15 per cent increase to £10.5 million.

Forty-five other groups are to receive extra grants from the new fund, created in the autumn Treasury statement, which brought an overall 13 per cent increase to the national arts budget.

The grants will, however, be forfeited by some companies if they are not matched by money from local government or the private sector.

Philip Hedley, of the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, said that apart from the South Bank the losers will be the grass-roots companies. The Liverpool Playhouse, the Liverpool Everyman Theatre, the Bristol Old Vic, the Lyric Hammersmith and the Northern Ballet Theatre receive no increase at all, while the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, gets a 17 per cent reduction and the Northern Stage Company 20 per cent less.

Leading article, page 13

Stressed police 'can barely face work'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SOME police officers suffer so badly from stress that they can hardly face going to work, the London conference of the British Psychological Society was told yesterday.

Douglas Duckworth, of Leeds university, said several officers had told him that the revulsion they felt was so great that they vomited before going to work.

Dr Duckworth, speaking at a symposium on how people cope with disaster, said that such officers were suffering stress caused by trauma experienced during ordinary police work, rather than by dealing with tragedies such as the Lockerbie and Hillsborough disasters. Other speakers said that those who had to work at the scene of a disaster could suffer similar symptoms unless they were counselled.

Margaret Mitchell, of Glasgow university psychology department, who has studied the reactions of policemen who were on duty at Lockerbie after the Pan Am jet explosion, said that without counselling such people could be tormented by their memories. "Many of the 2,000 officers involved at Lockerbie still think about the experience. A lot more could have been done to help them, but so many officers were involved that proper counselling of all of them was impossible."

Child crime blame put on parents

By Nicholas Watt

GOVERNMENT plans to make parents pay for their children's crimes were boosted yesterday when a survey found that the majority of people believed that parents were mainly responsible for reducing crime.

The survey showed that 53 per cent of those questioned believed that parents and the family were responsible while 23 per cent thought it was the job of the police. Only 14 per cent pointed their fingers at the government and 2 per cent thought that schools should play the main role in cutting crime.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, welcomed the findings. He said it showed people thought that if families did not discipline children then young people could go off the rails and fall on to a slippery slope of crime, which started with truancy.

The survey was carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys last month. A random sample of 2,000 people was asked who they thought was mainly responsible for reducing crime.

Mr Baker was addressing the Home Office standing conference on crime prevention which heard of a number of schemes that had managed to reduce levels of crime. Street crime has been reduced by 14 per cent in north London over the past year as a result of an anti-crime campaign involving the police and community groups.

Commander David Stevens, of the Metropolitan Police No 1 Area in north London, said that his officers discovered that 90 per cent of crime in the area was committed by just 60 people. He concentrated resources on these people which led to an 18 per cent increase in the number of overall arrests.

While yesterday's conference showed success at a local level the latest figures of reported crime, for the second quarter of 1990, showed an increase of 17 per cent. On this discrepancy between local figures and national levels Mr Baker said: "We have got to get it right at a local level because pockets of success can extend to a national level."

Today's figures for reported crime in the third quarter of 1990 are expected to show an increase of 14 per cent on the same period last year. That is expected to include a significant rise in car crimes.

Guide 'heeded' in child abuse cases

By Ronald Faux

MICHAEL Bishop, director of social services for Manchester, yesterday defended his department's action in taking into care 13 children alleged to have suffered ritual abuse.

Mr Justice Hollings in the High Court had criticised the department for not following the Cleveland guidelines and for its method of interviewing children and telling them what other children had said of the allegations. He ordered that all the children should remain wards of court but ruled that six of them should be returned to their parents under professional supervision.

Mr Bishop, who was director of Cleveland social services at the time of the child abuse cases, yesterday denied that the lessons of Cleveland had not been observed. He said that Manchester social services had got its act together with the police and the NSPCC and the fundamental lessons of Cleveland had been learned and observed. He accepted the judge's criticism of the department's interview method which, he said, was practised in conjunction with the NSPCC. What was important he added, was that five children had been seriously and sadistically abused and the action taken to protect them had been justified.

Vlasta Novak, deputy head of social services in Manchester, said that the cases had been extremely harrowing. Two social workers had been assaulted by angry adults during the enquiries and many staff were finding it hard to cope. A child protection unit is to open in Manchester on March 1 taking over the task of monitoring children at risk in the city from the NSPCC.

Michael Green, a solicitor acting for the eight children who were returned home, said yesterday: "They remain wards of court and we will be looking for a review of the wardship as soon as possible."

The future of 20 children taken into care in Rochdale, Lancashire, after allegations of ritual abuse is still being decided at a private hearing which began nine days ago at Manchester High Court.

☐ In 1988 social workers in Nottingham took 23 children into care after allegations of ritual abuse (Peter Victor writes).

In that case, however, the police brought charges. In February 1989 ten adults from the rundown Broxtowe estate received jail sentences of up to ten years.

The Broxtowe children were all fostered or adopted. While the police maintained that there was no element of ritual abuse involved, social workers insisted that the children had been abused during ceremonies, a view backed last month by Nottinghamshire county council.

Another 17 cases of alleged ritual abuse involving 52 children are now being investigated by the council. These children have been removed from possible danger and an inspectorate is to be set up by the council to look into their cases.

Meningitis alert as two die

By Craig Seton

A MENINGITIS alert was issued to parents in Cheshire yesterday after two young children died of the disease and three others became ill.

A three-year-old boy who died was among four children from the same district of Northwich who were admitted to Leighton hospital, in Crewe, between Thursday and Saturday of last week with meningococcal meningitis. A five-year-old girl from Crewe also died after contracting the same bacterial form of the disease.

Health officials said that there was an obvious link between the outbreaks and advised parents in the two areas to watch for signs of the illness. A doctor should be consulted if adults or children showed symptoms such as severe headache, neck stiffness and fever, vomiting, drowsiness or confusion. Infants might refuse feeds, or be fretful or difficult to wake.

The three Northwich children taken ill with the infection, which is notifiable, were said yesterday to be in a satisfactory condition at Leighton hospital. They were expected to be allowed home for Christmas. All five children were admitted last week to the hospital, where the five-year-old girl died. The boy who died had been transferred to Alder Hey hospital, Liverpool.

Crewe health authority said that close family contacts of the children had been identified and followed up.

Baker calls for action to cut rising motor thefts

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

JUST four seconds were needed yesterday to show Kenneth Baker that one of the toughest problems he will face in his term as home secretary will be car crime.

The demonstration of how quickly a car can be broken into was organised by the Consumers' Association's *Which?* magazine, which in more than 30 years has found only two models with locks its testers could not breach.

Mr Baker watched as a *Which?* investigator broke open the bonnet of a BMW in seconds. He repeated the success on a Rover Metro at the Home Office standing conference on crime prevention in London.

It was a depressing reminder that Britain has the worst record in Europe for car crime. A driver in Britain is six times more likely to have a car stolen than in Germany, and twice more than in Italy or Spain. Car thefts and break-ins account for a quarter of all crimes with nearly one million cars taken or broken into annually.

Insurers say that the cost in losses and police time will amount to almost £1 billion this year. Six out of ten missing credit cards and 70 per cent of cheque books disappear from cars.

Mr Baker criticised motorists and car manufacturers for their casual attitude to security and called for protection devices to be built into all cars.

While car manufacturers have improved the speed and performance of their models and reacted to safety and environmental legislation, little has been achieved to keep out the thief, according to *Which?*

The Consumers' Association yesterday tried to embarrass manufacturers into action by publishing a league table of cars most vulnerable to theft.

John Beishon, the association's director, said the list showed that the doors of most cars could be opened in ten seconds. The boot, bonnet and fuel filler cap could be breached in under a minute.

The worst model tested by *Which?* was a Fiat Regata 85 Super saloon, now no longer in production, which was opened up in just five seconds, but the table lists more than 100 of the most popular makes of car on British roads. Only two could not be broken into, the Volkswagen Passat CL and the Vauxhall Carlton.

Even a luxury models like the £21,000 BMW 520i was unable to withstand the *Which?* examiners, in spite of being fitted with a supposedly sophisticated deadlocking system.

BMW was so concerned that the doors of the 5-series could be opened in just 15 seconds that it has carried out a redesign of the locks. Scott Brownlee, the company's British spokesman, said: "We addressed the problem as soon as it was identified to us."

The Consumers' Association says that too few manufacturers have reacted with that sort of speed, allowing car crime to soar. Mr Beishon said: "The majority of manufacturers have failed to address this problem with sufficient rigour. Car manufacturers may not like a theft league table. They will not welcome anything that shows up their cars in less than a rosy light. But the answer is to make cars more secure, not try to hide the true situation."

Car manufacturers reacted by saying that drivers could do more to protect themselves from theft. One in five motorists forget to lock their doors when they leave their cars.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said: "Alarms are offered as optional extras for most makes of car but customers want to spend hundreds of pounds on stereos and sunroofs but begrudge spending on an alarm to secure their vehicle."

Vauxhall is one of the large manufacturers to have attacked crime by fitting some of its models with deadlocks, which cannot be tripped by smashing a window to open the doors from the inside, and offers free window etching as well as radios that have security codes, making them useless if removed from the car.

These improvements, however, are not widespread and manufacturers have failed to keep pace with the rapidly increasing rate of insurance losses from car thefts and break-ins, up 23 per cent so far this year.

Mr Baker, like his predecessor David Waddington, is likely to press ahead with plans for a Home Office league table of cars most vulnerable to theft next year. Pressure on manufacturers, however, is more likely to come immediately from drivers and fleet buyers who will pay for security through insurance premiums. There are increasing numbers of discounts for motorists willing to invest in alarm systems.

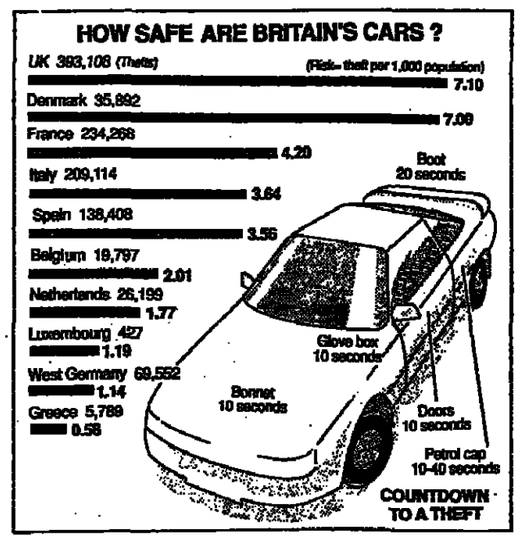
Insurers also plan to widen the current nine car insurance categories to 18, allowing them scope to penalise owners of models which fall victim to crime most often. This should turn buyers away from models with a poor theft record.

Gail Roberts, underwriting manager at Sun Alliance, said: "We have to do something about car crime, and making motorists think before they buy is one way to force the pace of change."

HOW YOUR CAR RATES

Key: Cars rated from 1 to 10 according to the time it took CA experts to open doors, boot, bonnet, glove box, fuel filler and to unpick steering lock using simple tools without damaging the car — a score of 1 means that the car is very easy to enter.

LARGE FAMILY	
VW Passat CL	10
VW Passat TD Estate	5
Ford Sapphire 1.6L	4
Toyota Carina II 1.6 GL	4
Mazda 626 2.0 GLX	4
Honda Integra LX	4
Renault 21 GTS	4
Audi 80E	4
Renault 21 GDT Estate	4
Renault 21 GTX	4
Peugeot 405 1.9 GR	3
Hyundai Stellar 1600 GSL	3
Nissan Bluebird 2.0 GSX	3
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0i cx4	3
Nissan Bluebird 1.6 LX	3
Vauxhall Cavalier GL 2.0i	3
Subaru 1.8 GL Estate	3
Peugeot 405 1.9 GLx4	3
Mazda 626 2.0 GLX Estate	3
Audi 80 1.0 GL	3
Nissan Bluebird 2.0 GL	3
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6 L	3
Saab 900	3
Ford Sierra 2.0 L	3
Citroen BX 19 TRS	3
Ford Sierra 2.0 GL	3
Honda Accord EX 2.0	2
Citroen BX 14	2
Rover Montego 2.0 HL	1
Fiat Regata 85 S	1
Fiat Regata 100S	1
SMALL FAMILY	
Fiat Tipo 1.4 DFT	4
Rover Maestro Mayfair 1.6	4
Rover 214 Si	4
Proton 1.5 GLS	4
Skoda Favorit 136 LX	4
FSO 1400	4
Hyundai Pony 1500 GLS	4
Toyota Corolla 1.3 GL	4
Peugeot 309 1.3 GL	4
Toyota Corolla 1.6 Estate	4
Nissan Sunny 1.3 LX	3
Mazda 323 1.3 LX	3
Volvo 440 GLi	3
Skoda Estelle 2	3
Vauxhall Astra 1300L	3
Ford Escort 1.4L	3
Renault 11 GTL	3
Honda Civic 1.3 DX	3
Rover 216 S	3
Vauxhall Belmont 1.3L	3
Nissan Sunny 1.6 GS	3
Rover 213 S	3
Lada Samara 1.3 SL	3
Honda Ballade EX	3
Seat Malaga 1.5 GL	2
VW Golf C	1
Volvo 340 1.4 GL	1
SUPERMINIS	
Nissan Micra 1.2 GS	4
Seat Ibiza 1.2 L	4
Peugeot 205 GR	4
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS	4
Toyota Starlet 1.0 GL	4
Yugo 55A	4
Daihatsu Domino	4
Fiat Uno Turbo	4
Ford Fiesta XR 2i	4
Metro GTi 16v	4
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GLX	3
Seat Ibza 1.5 GL	3
Vauxhall Nova 1.3 L	3
Mazda 121 1.3 LX	3
Daihatsu Charade 1.0 CX	3
Suzuki Alto	3
Renault 5 TR	3
Citroen AX 11 RE	3
Citroen AX 14 TRS	3
Suzuki Swift GTi	2
Vauxhall Nova 1.0	2
Metro 1.1S	2
Fiat Uno 60S	2
Metro City	2
Renault 5 TL	2
Lancia Y10	1
Citroen 2CV	1
Mini City	1
Peugeot 205 GTi 1.6	1
VW Polo Formel E	1
Fiat Uno 45	1
Fiat Panda	1
PRESTIGE	
Vauxhall C'ltn 2.3 Estate	7
Volvo 740 GLE	5
Ford Granada 22.0i GL	5
Audi 100 2.0E	5
Ford G'da 2.0i GL Saloon	5
Rover 820 E Fastback	4
Volvo 240 GL Estate	4
Ford Granada 2.0 Ghia	4
BMW 520i	3
Honda Accord 2.0i	3
Citroen XM 2.0i	3
Renault 25 GTX	3
Rover 820 Si	1
Saab 900i	1
OFF-ROADERS	
Nissan Patrol	4
Suzuki Vitara JLX	4
Daihatsu Sportrak	4
Isuzu Trooper	3
Mitsubishi Trooper	3
Land Rover Discovery	1



Local property tax 'quick way out of community charge'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A LOCAL property tax, similar to domestic rates but based on the capital value of homes, would be the simplest and fairest replacement for the poll tax, an independent report on local government finance said yesterday.

The study, the first and most wide-ranging of its kind since the introduction of the community charge, was handed yesterday to Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which commissioned it.

Based on analysis of local taxation in Britain, Europe and north America, the 84-page report concluded that a domestic property tax was the most "robust, appropriate and flexible" means of raising revenue for local councils. Guy Hollis, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, who led the study team, said: "This type of property tax could be implemented quickly and should appeal to the government as a short way out of the community charge."

The report proposed a new approach to funding local government, which would let taxpayers see exactly how their money was spent, and suggested that some services, such as libraries and school meals, should no longer be subsidised.

If the proposed redistribution of the cost of council services had been applied to the existing municipal structure this year, average rates bills would have ranged from £136 to £527, depending on the level of government grant. That compares favourably with this year's average poll tax bill of £357 a head.

The report, by a team of local government finance experts, including senior management consultants and leading academics, said Mr Heseltine was right to examine local government structure while reviewing the poll tax. Its principal conclusion in favour of a property tax based on capital value, however, seemed to endorse Labour's "fair rates" proposals.

The study said it would be almost impossible to reform the poll tax. Banding the tax according to ability to pay, as previously suggested by Mr Heseltine, was no solution because it would create more poverty traps than there were in the present system of rebates. Mr Hollis said that a local income tax would be very complex to administer although, as the Inland Revenue completed its computerisation programme, it might become a viable alternative for raising revenue for a regional tier of government as proposed by Labour.

The team had also ruled out the adoption of a local sales tax, which would be too easy to avoid by "border-hopping" and would fall foul of EC rules on the harmonisation of taxes. A return to the old rating system, based on notional rental values, was unlikely to win much public support. One reason for its removal was because it was seen to be based on unfair estimates of value.

By contrast, information about capital values was easy to come by from estate agents and chartered surveyors and, by basing rateable values on house prices, the tax would go a long way towards reflecting ability to pay. The team came down in favour of keeping the uniform business rate, which it said was the fairest tax on commerce. Companies should pay local taxes because they used local services.

The report also proposed that council services be split into four groups — need, protective, amenity, and facility services. It suggested that the cost of need services, to include education and social services, should be largely or wholly met by central government grant, as could the cost of protective services such as police and fire.

Amenity services, such as street cleaning and lighting, parks and open spaces, should be wholly funded from local taxation. Facility services, such as libraries, school meals and leisure centres should become self-financing.

Alternatives to the Community Charge (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 40 Water End, York YO3 6LP; £10 inc p&p)

Tree time: boys of Westminster cathedral choir school in London have fun taking delivery of their Christmas tree

OFT clears merger of BSkyB

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, has decided not to refer the merger between Sky Television and British Satellite Broadcasting to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

His decision follows an investigation into the deal by the Office of Fair Trading. Sir Gordon Borrie, OFT director-general, told the department of trade that there were no grounds for a referral under the 1973 Fair Trading Act.

An OFT spokesman said all public interest concerns relating to the merger are safeguarded in the 1990 broadcasting act. He said, however, that the Sadler enquiry into cross-media ownership, due to be published shortly, is sure to address the BSkyB merger.

The European Commission has also cleared the merger, on the grounds that it applied only to the British market.

The Independent Television Commission (ITC), which must decide before January 1 whether to grant the merged group a non-domestic satellite television licence, said it hopes to have made a decision by the end of this week. The commission, angered that BSB shareholders did not seek its consent before the merger, could rule that the BSB directors who negotiated the deal are not "fit and proper persons" to hold a licence.

Libel win for Wendy Savage

By LIN JENKINS

THE consultant obstetrician Wendy Savage has been awarded substantial undisclosed damages in settlement of a libel action over an essay published by the the Social Affairs Unit, a right-wing think-tank.

The article accused her of dangerous medical practices and alleged she held extreme feminist views. Mary Kenny, the journalist who wrote the essay published in *Family Portraits* in 1986, apologised though her solicitor at the High Court and said in a statement: "I am happy to acknowledge that Mrs Savage has never held the views I attributed to her."

Mrs Savage, senior lecturer at the London Hospital Medical School, who was charged with incompetence and suspended five years ago but later cleared and reinstated, said that the money would be donated to women's health organisations.

● The lives of hundreds of babies could be saved at birth if doctors and midwives were more skilled at resuscitation, a joint working party from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the College of Anaesthetists said yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

The group said that about 600 of the 600,000 babies born each year in the UK died or suffered permanent damage in the first minutes after birth.

Cover-up denied

A South West Water authority chief denied yesterday that there was any attempt to cover up the discharge of 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate into a waterworks, which affected more than 20,000 people at Camelford, Cornwall, in July 1988.

Exeter crown court was also told that Keith Court, the authority's chairman, had told police that the arrangements that allowed the mistaken delivery of the chemical were unacceptable. The authority has pleaded not guilty to breaching public health regulations. The hearing continues today.

Bomb evidence

The Court of Appeal is to hear fresh expert evidence today on the fingerprints used to convict Gilbert McNamee, alleged to have been the IRA bombmaker behind the Hyde Park bomb which killed four soldiers of the Household Cavalry in 1982.

Injury fine

Trevor Kay, owner of Pettitts Crafts and Gardens in Reedham, Norfolk, was fined £500 yesterday by Great Yarmouth magistrates after a boy aged 13 was injured while driving a miniature train at the leisure park. Kay, who admitted being in breach of health and safety rules, was also ordered to pay £400 costs.

Lines protest

People living in Buttermere in the Lake District said yesterday that they were prepared to be arrested to stop yellow lines being painted in the village.

Bridge opened

A £1.5 million bridge and road link was opened in Kendal,

Stabbing case

Laith Hashim Alani, aged 24, accused of stabbing to death two consultant plastic surgeons at Pinderfields hospital, Wakefield, has been transferred from prison to the Rampton secure mental hospital, Nottinghamshire, West Yorkshire magistrates were told yesterday. He was remanded, in his absence, in custody until January 11.

550 lose jobs

More than 550 cleaners are to lose their jobs with Hampshire county council after six major contracts were awarded to private companies.

Tory choice

Andrew Rowbotham, aged 29, a former SAS officer, has been chosen as the Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Blaby, the Leicestershire constituency of Nigel Lawson.

107 years old

Beatrice Amesbury, celebrated her 107th birthday yesterday at Greenhill Grange old people's home at Frome,

The homeless debate: Times reporters look at the background to yesterday's government announcement

Campaigner for dispossessed takes on policy

By RAY CLANCY

FOR many people it would be a dream come true: to be elevated from campaigner for the homeless to policymaker advising the government. For Nick Hardwick, however, it is just another opportunity to help young people.

Mr Hardwick, aged 33, the director of Centrepoint, the largest voluntary organisation for young homeless people in London, is to join the environment department to help to develop a strategy for tackling the scandal of people sleeping rough on the streets.

He likes to play down his skills and prefers talking about the need to change the social security rules so that young people are not left penniless as well as homeless, the need to provide for homeless people with bad health, and the wonderful job that those in the department are doing.

Since joining Centrepoint four years ago, Mr Hardwick has never missed an opportunity to criticise the government for its policy on homelessness. Last year, he said the policies put forward by Margaret Thatcher's government were prejudiced and based on the idea that all young people begging on the streets were feckless and idle, with loving parents waiting for them to return home.

He was not happy with the way in which policy was developing at the environment department under the then housing minister, Michael Spicer. He described the civil servants who drew up the rules as having been born middle-aged and said "if young people could be ordered as neatly as the Department of the Environment seems to think, a lot of parents would sleep easier in their beds".

Now, with a new prime minister, and, more importantly, the appointment of Sir George Young as housing minister, things are looking up.

"For a long time the department didn't want to listen to the experienced people who were working with the homeless on a day-to-day basis. Now we have a very profesional team," Mr Hardwick said yesterday. He is very optimistic, but said that, for the initiative to work, help is needed from other departments. He intends to develop a policy that will see an end to the young beggars in the Strand and the rootless people who live in cardboard boxes at Waterloo.

Hardwick: wants end to young beggars in the Strand

At the launch of the initiative yesterday, he was on the platform sitting next to Sir George, putting forward government policy instead of attacking it.

Colleagues who worked closely with him at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) remember, above all else, the rapport he developed with everyone, from the young offenders to the managers. He ran Nacro's training scheme for young offenders in Croydon and became a regional organiser before he left in 1985.

His concern for young people who do not seem to get a chance in life and his determination to do something about it has dominated his career. "The great thing about working with young people is their optimism, their ability to bounce back and their idealism. That is what attracted me to this sort of work," he said.

At Centrepoint, he had a reputation for getting things done. His organisational skills have led to 1,500 young people being helped at the emergency centre in Soho every year and the setting-up of four long-term hostels and 70 flats and bedsits for young people.

He has a hard task. Yesterday he described how young people on the streets had told him that they keep hearing about all the things the government was going to do for them. "But we are still here on the streets for Christmas," they said. The task is to convince them, as well as the government.

Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13

SIMON TOWNSLEY

A young man living rough in London sips hot broth given to him by the Salvation Army soup run

Money 'wasted on putting families into B&B hotels'

By RAY CLANCY

A RECORD 250,000 families are likely to be without a permanent home by the end of the century unless there is a big increase in house building and more money is found to help the homeless, according to a report published today.

Councils are spending twice as much on putting families in temporary housing as it would cost to build new homes for them. The only solution is for the government to reverse its policy on providing council homes and increase spending throughout the country, the report from Shelter, the National Campaign for the Homeless, says.

Wasting Money, Wasting Lives is the first national report on the increasing use of temporary housing, according to Shelter. It found that 34,000 families are without a permanent home this Christmas.

More than 100 families throughout Britain were interviewed about life in bed-and-breakfast hotels, caravans, and hostels, and other kinds of temporary housing. A survey was also conducted of local authorities to find out what they were doing to help the homeless. It found that families had to wait an average of 11 months in temporary housing before moving to a permanent home, and more than half of those interviewed had heard nothing from their local council while they were waiting for a home.

Most of those interviewed were very worried about their children's health. None of the temporary housing surveyed had space for children to play in, and in some bed-and-breakfast hotels up to 25 families had to share toilets.

The report calls for an end to the "scandal of temporary housing" and asks the government to provide at least 200,000 new council and housing association homes a year. It says that all councils with high numbers of homeless people should be allowed to use revenue from council house sales to build more homes, and that there should be a national minimum standard for all types of temporary housing.

Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter, said: "Record numbers of families are living in often seedy and degrading temporary accommodation. This is a damning indictment of our housing policy. Not only are families suffering real hardship, but using temporary housing is financially crazy."

Government figures show that 126,680 families were officially homeless in 1989. Shelter estimates that the figure represents 363,500 individuals, but says in the report that the total number of homeless is much higher. It says that the government figures refer only to the statutory homeless, which excludes those who are sleeping rough and couples who live with their parents because they have no home of their own.

The report describes temporary housing as "a lasting nightmare" and gives examples of dwellings overrun by rats and black beetles, shared toilets and kitchens, and places with no hot water for washing.

Kate, who lives in a council hostel in Islington, north London, said: "We have cooking facilities but I have no pots and pans as my family allowance has not come through for four months. We eat take-aways." Sila, who lives in a bed-and-breakfast hotel in Woodspring, Avon, said: "There's one shower for 11 people. There's a bath but it has no hot water. The hotel is damp. Mould grows on your clothes."

Even more complaints are listed from people living in council hostels. Susan, who lives in a hostel in Ryedale, North Yorkshire, said: "There are six children here and no play space. There is no fridge and no laundry facilities. The fire extinguishers are always empty because kids set them off. There are beetles in the bedroom. I get fed up because I can't keep the place clean."

Jean, of Mansfield, said: "I can't use the hot tap in the bathroom. The place is infested with earwigs. There are only four power points but the fuse box blows three times a week. The drains overflow in the yard and the garden is full of rubbish."

Some places are so strict that those who live there said that they felt like inmates in a prison. Denise, of Bradford, said: "We have to be out of the hotel by 10am. That means I have to get up at 6am to be ready to go out for the day. The rules say you have to keep children quiet which is quite impossible."

Dawn, of Woodspring, said: "The backdoor is locked between 3pm and 9am. The kitchen cannot be used after 9pm which makes it hard to time with the baby's food. No kettles are allowed in rooms and there is no hot water after 10pm."

Numbers are uncertain and definitions unclear

THE official number of homeless people in Britain varies according to each survey, but all agree the statistics are too high. An independent watchdog has estimated that they have more than doubled in the past 12 years (Ray Clancy writes).

Figures for 1990 are not yet available but last week MPs were told that the number of homeless is expected to increase by 15 per cent. But the definition of homeless is unclear. Last September the then housing minister, Michael Spicer, was criticised over proposals to change the description from statutory homeless to statutory rehoused. The Audit Office, an independent watchdog, said in August at least 300,000 people had no home, more than double the number in 1978. The report found households registered by councils as homeless increased from 53,000 in 1978 to more than 126,000 last year. The real number of people sleeping rough was unknown.

A recent report from a working party, which included representatives from health services and housing associations in London, found that a record 31,734 families were living in temporary accommodation. A report published today by Shelter, the campaign for the homeless, says 43,000 families nationally will spend Christmas in temporary housing and issues a warning that unless something is done to alleviate the matter the number could increase to 250,000 by the end of the century.

Prime role for forgotten agency

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Housing Corporation, a sometimes almost forgotten agency, is to be the main provider of social housing under the present government, acting through housing associations.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has already let it be known that he sees the corporation as the main policy instrument, replacing local authorities, and the appointment as housing minister of Sir George Young, who has close links with the housing association movement, shows that that will be implemented.

In the past, the corporation has complained of being starved of money to fulfil its purpose and of running out of funds for association projects.

There have been signs this year that this view has been accepted, and the first tangible result is the announcement in a parliamentary written answer on Monday that more resources will be concentrated on housing the homeless through the corporation's rising capital expenditure programme.

Sir George has the issue of the homeless at the top of his in-tray and his announcement of funding for the corporation confirmed the priority. The corporation's gross expenditure for 1993/94 is expected to exceed £2 billion, a 65 per cent rise over the present year, with a target of 40,000 completions in that year compared with an annual figure of about 27,000 now.

The Housing Corporation, established in 1964, is responsible for supervising the work of 2,300 housing associations registered with it. They provide over 500,000 homes. The corporation supplies funding for the associations' schemes, providing homes for rent and low-cost home ownership for those in housing need, including poor families, the homeless, the elderly and disabled people.

In his announcement, Sir George said that the extra resources would enable housing associations to provide more subsidised housing, with special emphasis on helping the homeless.

Approving the corporation's development programme, Sir George said that about half the total of new homes for rent would be targeted on the homeless. The corporation was committed to efficiency gains of at least 5 per cent over three years through, among other things, greater attention to cost competition in bids.

Rooflessness internationally shows variety of roots and responses

By ALICE THOMSON

EUROPE and the United States once pitied the homeless in Third World nations, but whereas these countries have grappled with the problem for years, the West has only recently had to address concern about street sleeping.

In Washington, drugs and mental problems have led many people to live on the streets, often in freezing conditions. Homelessness became an acute problem ten years ago: now 20,000 of the 600,000 population are homeless.

Cities in Europe have all seen a dramatic rise in homelessness, especially among the young. The municipal authorities in Paris say that some 9,000 people were registered with centres for the homeless at any one time last year. Officials admit that the total is probably several thousand higher because few bother to register.

Most of the homeless are believed to be wandering clochards, or tramps, but recently there have been some well-publicised evictions of families in working-class quarters. Unlike in London, few children are seen begging with their mothers, but many are accompanied by mangy dogs.

Paris has municipal shelters providing temporary lodging for about 1,000 people a night, and others are run by charitable organisations. Centres for the homeless provide meals, job information and Metro tickets, but there are still people huddled on boulevards and in the Metro with placards asking for food.

In Hong Kong, the homeless are called street sleepers and the government is fairly lenient about their make-shift camps in the humid city. It is trying to adopt a personalised approach of meeting the needs of individual street sleepers, but it still considers them a major environmental concern.

Last year, there were 1,031 registered street sleepers, but the average age, at 52.5 years, is far higher than in Europe, with nearly one third of the sleepers aged over 60. Only a third are considered to be in normal health and 15 per cent are mentally ill.

Hong Kong's high rents have forced many people on to the streets, and at least a third are still employed, going to work each day from their make-shift shacks. However, homelessness, which has long been a problem in the city, is declining. Only in West Kowloon, where 60 per cent of people are street sleepers, is the problem growing. Counselling, blankets and old age allowance are offered, but most of the people have been on the streets for so long that they are loath to move.

India still has an overwhelming homelessness problem. More than 100,000 of Delhi's eight million population lack a roof. They sleep on railway station platforms, under hoardings and beneath wheelbarrows that serve as make-shift shops during daytime. Few are drug addicts or mentally disabled, most are just too poor to find accommodation or even to live in the unauthorised squatter shacks, in which an eighth of Delhi's population subsist.

Many leave their families in the villages and come to Delhi to work as porters and rickshaw pullers. The municipal corporation provides shelters only during the monsoon or bad winters, but Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras sometimes offer free meals.

Only China admits no homelessness. The government provides accommodation for all, a spokesman at the Chinese embassy in London said. However, the unmarried and the old are expected to live with relatives. In Peking, there is a severe housing shortage, and families are expected to bear the burden of poor relatives. As for homelessness, the spokesman said: "In China, such things don't happen because we still have strong customs."

Children's better world will cost £10bn

By DAVID YOUNG

THE cost of meeting pledges by 70 world leaders to make the world a safer and better place for children by the year 2,000 has been calculated by Unicef at £10 billion, the amount the world spends on defence every ten days.

The promises the leaders made at the World Summit for Children earlier this year included reducing child deaths by one third, halving maternal mortality, malnutrition and illiteracy rates in all countries, and providing clean water, safe sanitation and basic education for all children.

James Grant, the executive director of Unicef, has now called for increased aid to be given to meet those aims. He said that the sum needed was not only insignificant in comparison to military spending but was only half as much as Germany will spend on the process of reunification in the coming year. He also said that more efficient use could be made of the money that was already being spent.

"Aid for primary health care, including family planning, primary education, and rural water supply and sanitation, totals only just over 3 per cent of the industrialised world's aid," he said. "In every country, rich and poor, an enormous effort will be needed to keep up the political pressure, to keep faith with the promises that have been made, and to commit societies to goals for the year 2,000, so that failure to live up to them will become no less than a matter for national and international shame. Political commitment is ultimately a matter not only for politicians but for us all."

Mr Grant will launch his appeal for further aid today on publication of the Unicef *State of the World's Children* report and following the issue of a Unicef report *Child Poverty and Deprivation in the UK*, which shows that the number of children living in poverty in the UK has doubled in the past ten years.

The United Kingdom report, prepared by Professor John Bradshaw, of York university, and published by the National Children's Bureau, says that improvements in living standards for the better off have not trickled down to low-income families with children. It says that in the UK homelessness, housing conditions, childhood morbidity, drug abuse and probably children's diets, have all got worse.

Robert Smith, Unicef's UK director, said: "It is shocking that immunisation against whooping cough among British children is at a lower level than in Botswana, Costa Rica or Egypt.

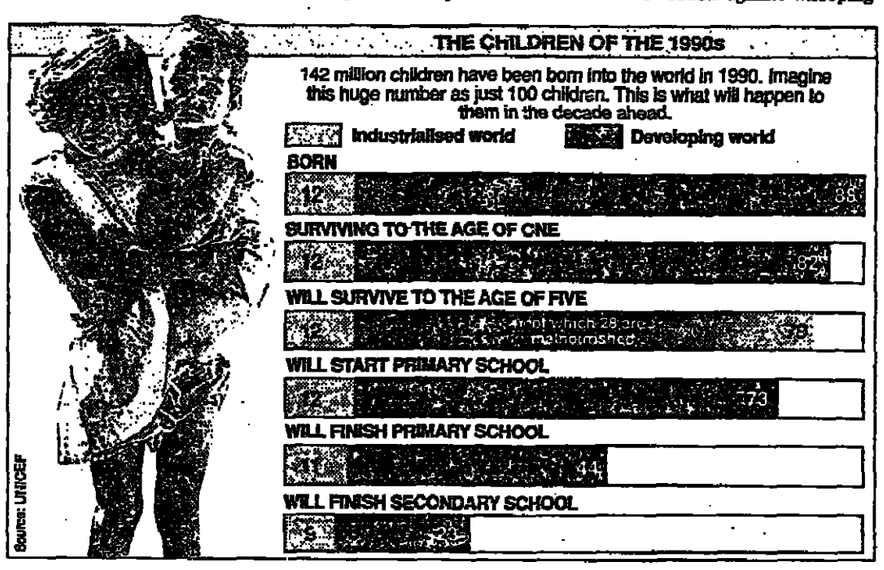
"The publication of these two reports, one on the situation of children throughout the world, and the other on the situation of children in our own country, couldn't be more timely. It shows that no country is perfect when it comes to the care and protection of its children.

"Children have no vote or voice so they have been overlooked. The world summit has given us the chance to change all that. We must take that chance."

The Unicef report says that on present trends the number of children being born in the world each year is likely to peak in about the year 2,000 and fall as the 21st century gets under way.

The children of the 1990s will therefore be the largest generation ever entrusted to mankind and the present generation of adults will rightly be judged by how it meets the challenge of protecting their lives, their growth, their education and their rights, the report says.

State of the World's Children (Unicef-UK, 071 405-5592; £3.95). *Child Poverty and Deprivation in the UK* (National Children's Bureau; 071 278-9441)



Shoppers get plea for Soviet food aid

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CHURCHES, fellowships and Christmas shoppers were urged yesterday to provide food aid for the Soviet Union. The Movement for Christian Democracy appealed to shoppers who wish to contribute to arrange for food to be delivered to Stansted airport.

The food campaign comes after requests for help from Alexander Ogorodnikov, former prisoner of conscience and the leader of the Soviet Christian Democratic Union. The movement hopes to fill an Aeroflot transport plane every week with food to fly to Moscow.

The operation, led also by the Women's Group for Soviet Jewry and the Christian-based Jubilee Campaign, plans to send the first flight of food on Christmas day.

The movement issued a list of priority items needed in Moscow, including canned food and baby mixes. Dr Robert Song, chairman of the steering group, said: "We are not asking for money. We are asking that people will think when they are doing their Christmas shopping to add a couple of cans to provide for the flights."

Campaign organisers are contacting churches, chapels and synagogues in an effort to gather food parcels. A member of the campaign will check in parcels before delivery to Moscow, and their distribution to people in need will be supervised in Moscow. Those include mothers with babies, children in orphanages, those in old people's homes, the poor and the refugees. Danny Smith, of the Jubilee Campaign, said: "Churches in the Soviet Union will be involved in helping with the distribution and this should ensure that food is neither stockpiled nor lost on the black market."

Instructions on how to provide aid are available from the Jubilee Campaign on 081 892 3637.

☐ Canon Glyn Jones, general secretary of the Missions to Seamen, has been invited to a seminar on seafarers' welfare in the Soviet Union. Merchant seafarers in the Gulf will soon receive 1,000 Christmas parcels, now wrapped and ready for distribution by the missions' Dubai chaplain, the Rev Duncan Harris.

☐ A Soviet cosmonaut is to broadcast a live message to Britain on Christmas day to say "thank you" for 16 tonnes of essential drugs donated to children's hospitals in the Soviet Union and which were airlifted last night (David Young writes). Donations can still be sent to Lena Appeal, British Science and Technology Trust, 78 Bollo Bridge Road, London W3 8AU.

Ridley attacks bank scheme

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NICHOLAS Ridley last night strongly criticised proposals for an independent bank to manage a single European currency as an "insufferable" bid for power by central bankers.

The bankers were trying to take control of economic policy by using as an example the success of the chairman of the Bundesbank in managing the deutschmark, but Germany's problems were just beginning, the former trade and industry secretary said.

Mr Ridley said that German unification would cost £40 billion to £50 billion annually for five years and it would have to pay huge sums of aid to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

He said in a speech to the London Swinton Circle that a huge burden would fall on Germany if there was a single currency on the continent because it would be the only paymaster. "Germany would have to pay the grants to enable the Greek, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Irish economies to keep up with the Germans."

Ridiculing suggestions the the Bundesbank was independent, Mr Ridley said that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was calling the shots and the bankers had to produce the money. Herr Kohl had given German unification a higher priority than economic and monetary union and he had "ridden roughshod over the independence of the Bundesbank by treating it as his servant not his master".

Prime minister refuses to rule out single Euro-currency

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major refused yesterday to rule out the adoption of a single European currency and told MPs that Britain's proposal for a hard-ecu parallel currency was a potential and secure route to economic and monetary union.

Throughout long exchanges in the Commons on the outcome of the Rome summit at the weekend, Mr Major used the formula that the success and development of the common currency would depend on the choice of governments, companies and individuals. It would be market-driven.

The prime minister, praised by MPs for his performance at the summit, spoke of its positive and co-operative outcome, although he said it would be foolish to deny that there would be difficult discussions ahead.

On political union, Mr Major made plain that he was opposed to what he called a centralised European super-state.

Britain believed in ever closer co-operation between member states, but they should preserve their national parliaments, governments and traditions, he said.

It was in reply to Neil Kinnock that Mr Major used the form of words with which he clearly intends to try to maintain party unity over Europe.

The Labour leader welcomed the change in tone in the government's approach at the summit, but suggested that Mr Major was trying to see how long he could sit on the fence with "pleasantry in place of policy".

He asked if Mr Major's hard-ecu proposals were the "quicker route" to a single currency as Treasury financial secretary Francis Maude had said, or a "possible route" to a single currency as Mr Major had said, or an "alternative to currency union" as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said. Mr Major said that the hard-ecu plan remained as it always had been, a possible route to economic and monetary union. "That does depend on its being driven by the market. It does depend on the choice of governments, companies and individuals.

"As to speed, that depends on the individual choices exercised, if exercised, by those governments, companies and individuals. But it is a potential and secure route without many of the risks that we think there would be on the alternative routes at present set before us."

Later, he told another Labour MP, who had asked whether the government was now committed in principle to a single currency, that they needed to see how the parallel currency was accepted and worked over a period. "There is no point in committing yourself to a principle until you have some experience of whether that principle is worthwhile and would work."

A prominent sceptic about European matters, Nicholas Budgen, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West, asked Mr Major to give an undertaking that he would never recommend to the Commons a single currency.

Mr Major sidestepped the question, saying that the government would lay proposals for a parallel currency and "leave it in the hands of the market, of individuals and companies, to decide whether to use that currency".

In reply to a later question, the prime minister said that the UK was no longer alone in having considerable reservations over the Delors plan.

Major: fence-sitting with "pleasantry in place of policy"

Major resists calls for interest rate cut

THE prime minister resisted pressure from all sides in the Commons yesterday to make an early cut in interest rates. John Major made clear his sympathy for those faced with high mortgage repayments, but said that the underlying need was to get inflation down.

The consequences of the government's economic management would be lower inflation and renewed growth next year, he said at question time.

Nicholas Ridley, the former cabinet minister, argued that if interest rates were used to maintain the exchange rate, there would be a wider and deeper recession than was needed to control inflation.

Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab) said that there was mortgage misery for millions of people who were paying considerably more as a result of the government's financial mismanagement over the past few years.

Mr Major said that he understood the problems.

Doctor's handwriting upsets the minister

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALL the old gibes about the illegibility of medical handwriting were used in the Commons yesterday after a doctor MP had to apologise to a minister for issuing a misleading script.

Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, Conservative MP for Wimbledon, got short shrift from Stephen Dorrell, a junior health minister, in reply to his question printed on the order paper suggesting that the advent of more businesslike management in the NHS could mean self-governing hospitals "publishing their budgets".

Mr Dorrell, clearly afronted at this invitation to breach commercial confidentiality, curtly informed him that they would not.

Dr Goodson-Wickes, an occupational physician rose to offer his apology.

"He may be interested to learn that owing to the illegibility of my question's handwriting, what should have appeared as "publicising benefits" has appeared on the order paper as "publishing budgets".

A relieved Mr Dorrell observed that the Wimbledon MP had inadvertently "drawn attention to one of the benefits of computerising prescriptions". With the question now securely replanted, he went on to highlight the welcome awaiting the doctor's constituents once the hospital in Kingston-upon-Thames had escaped the shackles of health authority control.

Brazil's forest efforts praised

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE destruction of Brazil's rain forests is an environmental disaster, although the rate of deforestation is slower than at first feared, the Commons environment committee said yesterday.

In a report based on the committee's five-day visit to Brazil, the MPs emphasised the importance of the United Kingdom / Brazil memorandum of understanding in advancing research on the rain forests. "We hope that it does not founder through excessive internal administrative and regional difficulties which we have identified."

They praised the new Brazilian government of President Collor, who, often against local public opinion, is committed to environmental protection. But the vast country faces a herculean task in policing such an area, the committee concludes.

"From the information made available to us, it appears that deforestation in Amazonia may not be as great as was previously thought. However, an annual loss of over 9,000 square miles of rain forest — an area roughly 20 per cent bigger than Wales — is serious."

The committee's report blamed the deforestation on the previous tax regime, poor farming practice, logging, and the estimated 2.5 million illegal gold miners and their dependants, who aim to "become rich or die".

Sir Hugh Rossi, the committee chairman, said yesterday: "We were left in no doubt that the Brazilian government regard the destruction of the rain forest with the utmost seriousness, but we appreciate that they have severe problems in policing an enormous area — bigger than the mainland of Western Europe. Almost everyone to whom we spoke in Brazil attached great importance to the bilateral memorandum of understanding on environmental co-operation between the British and Brazilian governments. A start has been made, but we very much hope that the Brazilian government will be able to overcome regional and administrative difficulties in getting the various projects up and running."

House of Commons environment committee second report: *Visit by the Committee to Brazil* (Stationery Office; £11.90).

Time 'is running out in Gulf'

The solution to the Gulf confrontation rests with President Saddam Hussein and time is running out for him, John Major, told the Commons during question time yesterday.

James Couchman, Conservative MP for Gillingham, had called on the prime minister to send the best wishes and prayers of every member of this House to the troops in the Gulf.

Mr Major said that he was happy to join in those wishes. "We owe a tremendous debt to our forces in the Gulf and we wish them a happy Christmas. I look forward to going out to visit them shortly after Christmas."

Army corps reorganised

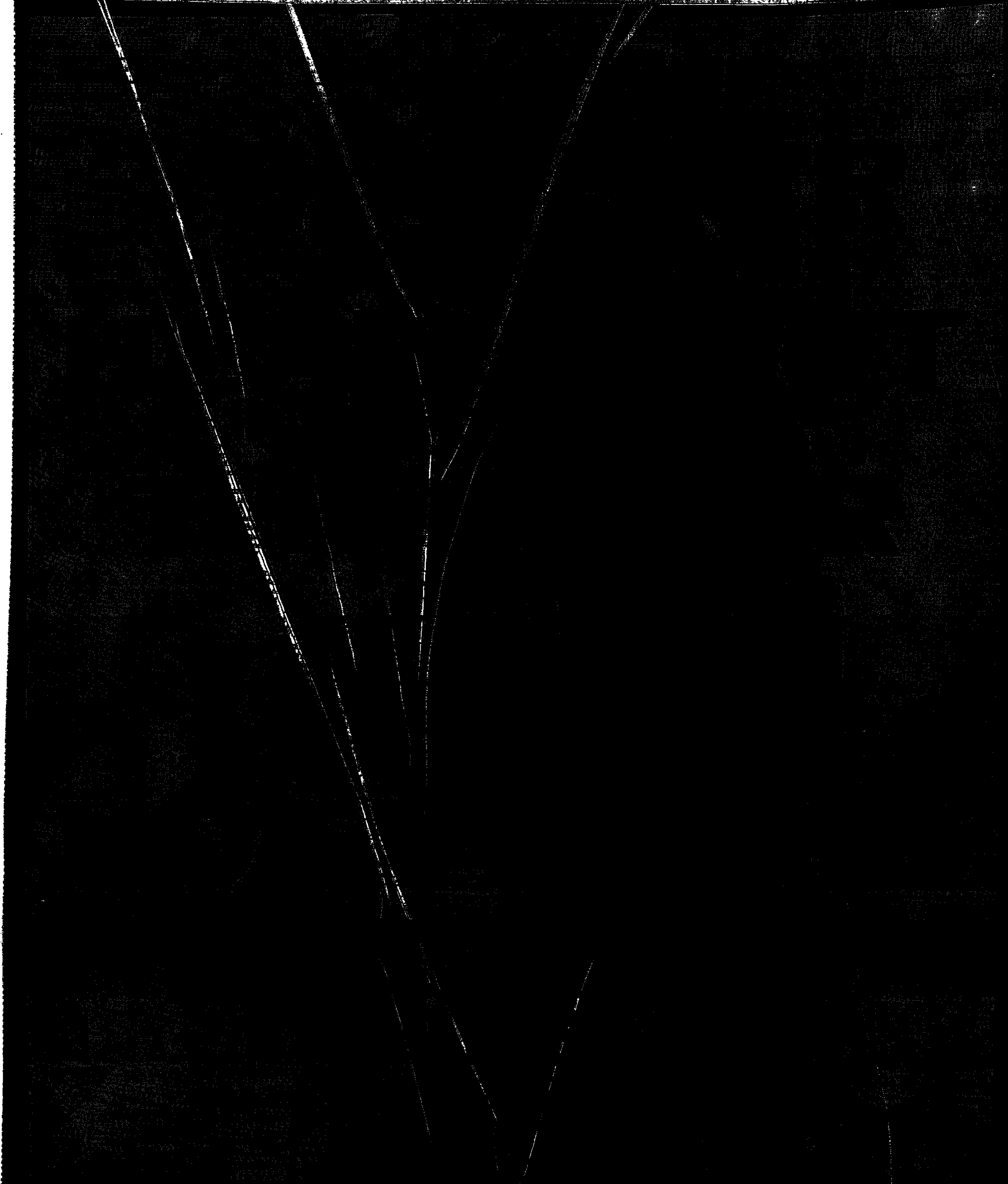
The Adjutant General's Corps is to be reorganised to take in the Corps of Royal Military Police, the Military Provost Staff Corps, the Royal Army Educational Corps and the Army Legal Corps. Archie Hamilton, armed forces minister, said in a Commons written reply that the Adjutant General's Corps will also include a new corps covering various administrative functions and the Women's Royal Army Corps. The title has not been decided.

Pants review

Starting next year, male prisoners are to be allowed four changes of underpants each week rather than two, Angela Rumbold, the prisons minister, said in a Commons written reply. The increase comes after a review of prison clothing.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Christmas recess motion and Consolidated Fund bill when a variety of topics can be raised.
Lords (2.30): Debates: Latin America; homelessness.



The three hundred thousand Kuwaitis still trapped in their own country.

You don't even hear mention of the [illegible] hundred thousand who were forced to f[illegible]

[illegible] thousands who have [illegible] days of torture [illegible] interrogation centres [illegible] thousands [illegible] and maimed.

But they do exist and they need your support, as much, if not more than the [illegible] hostages.

Unlike their Western counterparts they haven't been kept well and fed. In fact many have been killed simply for trying to shelter and feed foreigners on the run.

[illegible] the 2nd of August Kuwait [illegible] and [illegible] they are [illegible] own [illegible] looted [illegible] shots.

[illegible] hospitals have been [illegible] themselves.

[illegible] part inside their incubators.

Many [illegible] the [illegible] being suspected of [illegible]ing Western [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] taking part in [illegible]

[illegible] homes have been [illegible] from going to [illegible] many [illegible] people [illegible]

[illegible] own [illegible] Hussein [illegible] entire population [illegible]

[illegible] support [illegible]

ALL ACCOUNTS HAVE [illegible] WITNESSES TO THE [illegible] AND HUMAN RIGHTS [illegible] AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Baker w[illegible]
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Saddam says no point in going to U.S

Gifts for troops

Supply ships

Dutch protest

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Hong Kong bank move seen as storm warning

From JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

THE imposing bulk of the futuristic Hong Kong Bank building loomed unchanged over Hong Kong's central district yesterday, the stock market did not crash and the bank's shares rose 4 per cent.

But as the news sank in that the bank, in effect the colony's central bank, is to become a subsidiary of a holding company in London it was clear something had changed. In a territory used to devastating typhoons, some analysts were calling the eerie calm no more than the lull before the storm. While the markets waited for the reaction from China, senior Hong Kong officials from the governor, Sir David Wilson, down, called the bank's move a "business decision" which would not undermine confidence in the territory.

The financial secretary, Sir Piers Jacobs, said the government supported the plan, which would assure international confidence in the company. The secretary for monetary affairs, David Nendick, said the bank's role as the main issuer of currency notes would not be affected.

However, no one has seriously suggested the move is a vote of confidence in Hong Kong's future. William Purves, chairman of the 120-year-old bank, admitted it was designed to reassure international investors. With Hong Kong due to revert to Chinese control after 1997, the bank's name was "not so readily accepted for longer-term transactions".

Announcing on Monday the proposal to make the bank a subsidiary of the British-incorporated HSBC Holding plc, Mr Purves said he had confidence in the future of Hong Kong and the bank would not shift its headquarters or location from Hong Kong. In the long term, the move would strengthen the territory as a hub of investment in the region.

"We are not turning our back on Hong Kong," he said. "What we are doing is some restructuring."

Such assurances will cut little ice in Hong Kong, which has grown used to seeing the pillars of the community moving to international tax havens. Some 200 Hong Kong companies have incorporated themselves in Bermuda, the Cayman Islands or the Channel Islands since the "Noble House", Jardine Matheson Holdings, the company most closely associated with the colony's history, moved to Bermuda in 1984.

So far, official Chinese reaction has been muted. Guo Fengmin, leader of the Chinese delegation to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, which is negotiating the details of Hong Kong's transition to Chinese rule, said the bank should be fully aware of the impact on the local economy. He said it was Britain's responsibility to maintain prosperity and stability in the territory up to 1997.

But the colony's China-backed newspapers have taken a tougher line. The *Wen Wei Pao* said the move was "not wise" and that the Hong Kong government had not prevented the move after allowing the bank to enjoy special privileges.

Its sister paper, *Ta Kung Pao*, said the bank had enjoyed privileges for 120 years and asked whether it had thought of its obligations.

Mugabe targets firms' land

From JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Zimbabwe government is planning to seize land belonging to multinational companies as part of its controversial land programme, which was unveiled in July, senior sources in the ruling Zanu party have said.

They quoted Witness Mangwende, minister of agriculture, as telling the party central committee at the weekend that the multinationals would be included in legislation being drafted to implement the "revolutionary" land policy, which holds that the government will buy foreign-owned land and lease it back as a compensation for the investment the companies had ploughed into the land.

About 5 per cent of Zimbabwe's agricultural land is owned by multinationals, including Tiny Rowland's Lonrho company, the South African-based Anglo American Corporation and Unilever. The companies' land interests cover estates, forestry plantations and game and cattle ranches worth millions of pounds.

Parliament last week passed an amendment to the constitution which undermines the rights to property, allowing the government to fix its own price for confiscated land and barring owners from seeking redress in the courts.

The sources said Mr Mangwende also emphasised the government's intention to limit the number of farms owned by individuals, and the size of the farms and ownership by absentee landlords. He said the restrictions would also apply to senior party officials, the fastest growing group of landowners in the country.

Observers believe that the land policy is changing from one aimed at trying to break the cycle of poverty gripping millions of peasant farmers to an overtly political act to wrest land from the white population.

Exam nerves: mothers in Seoul praying for their children's success as about 662,000 Korean students sat tests for 146,346 university places

India and Pakistan wage proxy war behind smiles

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

BEHIND the talk of a new beginning in India-Pakistan relations now that there are new governments in Delhi and Islamabad, the two countries are intensifying what senior officials on both sides call a "proxy war".

The scale of meddling in each other's internal affairs is unprecedented. While Pakistan has allegedly increased support for separatists in Punjab and Kashmir, India was almost certainly involved in severe ethnic violence in the Pakistan province of Sind which helped bring down Benazir Bhutto.

In this unpromising atmosphere the two neighbours yesterday resumed "confidence-building" talks that had been interrupted by the fall of their governments. Neither side has much genuine interest in continuing the dialogue, but the United States is twisting their arms. Pakistan wants to win back American aid, cut off because of suspicions about Islamabad's nuclear programme. And India will seek American support if it applies to the International Monetary Fund for a loan. In the meantime, the most that can be expected from the talks are some relatively minor confidence-building agreements.

The two sides may, for example, declare their intention not to violate each other's air space and to warn each other in advance about planned military exercises in sensitive border areas.

The two countries came close to war in the spring because of alleged Pakistani involvement in the Kashmir uprising, but severe economic hardship and the world's preoccupation with the Gulf have since removed the threat.

Menem to sell off more state concerns

From SIMON BOYES IN BUENOS AIRES

BUOYED by recent successes in selling the state airline and telephone company, the Argentine government has unveiled the second round of its privatisation programme, putting 13 firms up for sale next year.

Most important of these are electricity companies, the waterworks and coalfields. But the government is also hoping to find buyers for the Buenos Aires Underground, the national mint and the national grains board.

A large number of oilfields, the ports administration, the state shipping line, several railway lines, and the national roads administration are also to be sold.

Roberto Dromi, the public works minister, said that, once this second stage was completed, a third round of sell-offs would involve the energy sector and include the Yacyterá hydro-electric dam that Argentina shares with Paraguay and which has been the subject of much environmental criticism.

Meanwhile, President Menem quashed rumours of a second military uprising, two weeks after an army rebellion in Buenos Aires left 13 dead. Radio reports earlier in the day had claimed that a cavalry regiment in the northern Entre Rios province was about to be attacked by armoured cars.

Port deal lets in food for Eritrea

By ANDREW LYCETT

THE Red Sea port of Massawa, which has been closed since it was captured from the Ethiopian government by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in February, is to be reopened early next month to allow food shipments into drought-stricken Eritrea.

The reopening will follow negotiations, co-ordinated by the UN World Food Programme, between Ethiopia and the front, who have been fighting in Eritrea since the early 1970s. As a result of an agreement last month, the UN will run a shuttle service carrying 5,000 tonnes of food three times a month between Massawa and the port of Djibouti, along the Red Sea coast. The food will be distributed to areas held by both the front and the government on an equal basis.

Completion of the deal had been delayed as Ethiopia demanded the right to inspect the UN ship off Massawa. As a result of separate mediation between the two parties by the UN agency, Ethiopia now retains the right to make an inspection in Djibouti.

Massawa is said by the agency to be in "fairly good shape, except for the warehousing". A repair team will travel on the first ship, which will be for the agency's exclusive use.

This development comes at a time when the food situation throughout Ethiopia, particularly in the north, is as bad as it has ever been. Last month Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission confirmed that the country was experiencing its second successive drought. It forecast that 4.28 million people would require food aid, almost half of them in Eritrea, and a further 20 per cent in neighbouring Tigré. It appealed for almost 850,000 tonnes of food to be donated.

The World Food Programme puts the requirement higher — at 941,000 tonnes. The front says that "over 78 per cent" of farmers in areas held by its forces will not be able to collect their harvest.

Militarily, the conflict between the Ethiopian government and the front is stalled. The only important recent engagement was at sea, off the Eritrean coast, close to the strategic Dahlak Islands, where the Soviet Union maintains a base. Last month the front claimed to have sunk one Ethiopian ship and damaged another there. Since taking Massawa, the front has not been able to go on to take the provincial capital, Asmara.

● **African relief:** The Save the Children Fund is sending three emergency relief experts to Liberia, making it the first British voluntary agency to work in the West African state, where the year-long conflict has caused almost one million people to flee their homes (Michael Knipe writes).

In Angola, signs that the government and the rebels are moving towards a settlement has made it possible for the fund, for the first time, to provide food for the starving via "safe corridors" through contested areas.

Save our ships —at a price

David Lipsey

Norman Lamont's first budget is expected to contain measures specifically designed to aid the British merchant shipping industry. Surely not, you may say, after 11 years of Thatcherism in which industrial subsidy was systematically dismantled as an instrument of policy. Yet this prediction can be made with some confidence, though neither the chancellor nor any of his officials, advisers or confidants has given the least hint that it will be so; not even when he met shipping representatives earlier this month.

The expectation is based on observing at close quarters the lobby being constructed in its favour under the audacious captaincy of Sir Jeffrey Sterling of P&O. The sight of this particular flotilla, under a full head of steam, bearing down on the poor, defenceless chancellor is so awesome that even he may be blown out of the water.

If you remain sceptical, just imagine you were in Sir Jeffrey's position as president of the General Council of British Shipping, had his daring, and were determined to get your way. How best could you launch your campaign? Clearly you would want to enlist the aid of Britain's most eminent seafarer. Perhaps, you might think, you could somehow link it with Britain's best-loved ship. You would then want to assemble a selection of the great and the good, including a high proportion of those you would expect to be sympathetic, so that any sceptics felt isolated. You would, of course, furnish them with a plausible argument or two but, above all, you would invest the whole operation with a romantic aura of sea and storm and salt-filled air. Add good food and wine undreamt of in the average mess, and glory seems certain, be your case good, bad or indifferent.

The result of such thinking turned out, much hard work later, to be a lunch. Not any old lunch, but a lunch hosted by the Duke of Edinburgh (top seafarer, a Mountbatten and who could resist meeting him?) That dealt with best-loved ship: the Duke made available the Royal Yacht Britannia, just a bracing launch ride from Tower Hill pier to get the wind in the guests' lungs and the spirit of Conrad in their minds.

Who came? A distinguished and nautical company, led by Lord Callaghan (ex-petty officer RN and former prime minister) and Lord Whitelaw (fewer ships, it is true, in Cumbria, but a military man with a strong and noble attachment to vaguely-defined national interest). They were joined by the present transport secretary, his predecessor and the shipping minister, and by two of the most powerful Tory backbenchers, one of whom had seven years in the shipping industry. The First Sea Lord and the chairman of the Commons defence committee were there, together with journalists and other mortals. There was superb food (lobster and pheasant) and superb wine.

The event was off the record, and to breach that confidentiality would lead one to end up at Traitors' Gate, opposite where the yacht was moored. But the journalists were invited doubtless to spread the gist of what was said, which was the industry's strategic national importance. Ninety-five per cent of goods go by sea, say the shipping representatives (though whether this impressive figure is by tonne, tonne-mile, or value, let alone why it should matter whether it be carried by British ships or foreign ones was not vouchsafed). They complain that their foreign competitors are subsidised (which, as any student of the economic literature knows, makes not the slightest difference to the case against subsidising our own industry. If foreigners are prepared to sell us services cheaper, financing the difference from their taxpayers' pockets, bully for Britain).

The representatives of the navy, and, without in any way divulging what position the Duke may or may not have taken, are worried about defence. They argue that if there is a war, they need a merchant navy to take the troops to it. The Indian government withdrew its sailors from the Canberra when she sailed to the Falklands, and if our ships are manned by other than true-Brit tars, who can say if they will be able to get to war?

The ease with which ships can be hired in the modern world, whether to transport men or goods, seems not to have occurred to these plain sailors; nor whether it makes sense to support an entire merchant fleet just in case, every decade or two, a ship might come in handy.

The representatives of the Tory party are, of course, aware that they are now supposed to oppose subsidy. They raise the obvious objections, but then hum and haw and wonder if aid to this oh-so-special industry could not be ring-fenced, so it and only it would be entitled to the government's beneficence.

As it happened, I had dined a couple of weeks previously with an entrepreneur who had made a fortune in shipping, selling up shortly before the current recession began. He is not planning to buy any more ships just now, but is quietly preparing himself. When the recession looks like ending, and the time is ripe, he will pile back into the industry with every expectation of making money. A bit of Treasury dosh would make him more enthusiastic, if Mr Lamont does indeed oblige. But the extra incentive that may result from Sir Jeffrey's supreme effort will be icing on his personal cake. Mr Lamont should save his resources for those who would be glad if they could afford bread.

Sturdy individual or tame lapdog?

Robin Oakley, political editor, considers the role of Tory activists when men like Mates take an unpopular line

Divorce, drink or simple neglect of the constituency have generally explained the involuntary departure of Conservative MPs. Their personal lives rather than their political beliefs have seen them suffer, so the current spate of threatened "deselections" in the Tory party of MPs who supported Michael Heseltine in the leadership contest marks something of a departure.

The fact that Frank Field's troubles in the Labour party have resurfaced amid the round of Conservative constituency association meetings to question the conduct of Michael Mates, Ivor Stanbrook, Cyril Townsend, Charles Wardle, Peter Temple-Morris and Julian Critchley has led some Tories to worry that the Conservative party is now going the way Labour did when compulsory reselection of MPs was adopted in the name of "accountability" a few years ago.

Neil Kinnock has worked hard to change that process because the whips realised that Labour MPs were having to devote so much time to securing home base that the party's efforts in Parliament were suffering. The Tories would go down that route at their peril.

The common view has been that the only "political" deselections on the Tory side since the war have been those of Nigel Nicolson in Bournemouth after he opposed the government over Suez and of Sir Anthony Meyer in Clwyd North West after he challenged Mrs Thatcher for party leadership last year. That is something of a simplification. The Nicolson case is remembered because he fought it publicly. A number of MPs whose views led their constituency association to threaten to start a candidate selection process have gone quietly.

Sometimes counter pressures have been brought to bear, as when Iain Macleod threatened that if the Surbiton Tories dumped the leftish Nigel Fisher then he would go too.

Tory constituency associations are jealous of their independence, which is why party chairmen have shied off attempts to take similar powers to those enjoyed by the Labour hierarchy in vetting by-election candidates. In general they have adopted the "model rules" recommended by Central Office. These provide that if 50 people sign a petition calling for a special meeting of the association, that meeting must be held within a month. If the motion calls for a selection process to be started, the constituency executive council will instruct the standing committee responsible to begin such a process, automatically opening up the competition to those other than the sitting MP, who usually secures automatic reindorsement.

The current Tory troubles have several explanations. One is that the party's traditional deference to figures of authority has crumbled. The Tories, like the Labour party, have seen their politically active membership fall in recent years: those who remain tend to be the most politically committed, with strong fundamentalist views. The process has been intensified by Mrs Thatcher's leadership, which has turned the Conservatives into a far more ideological party.

Party activists tend to develop a particular attachment to the leader, as the foot-stomping on the last day of a party conference testifies. When Mrs Thatcher challenged Edward Heath the constituency parties were reportedly overwhelmingly against her. But the spasm of fury against those who had brought about Heath's defeat soon passed. It is likely to pass again on this occasion, although the spasm is that much greater because Mrs Thatcher had been 11 years prime minister and 15 years party leader. She inspired particularly intense loyalty.

Mr Mates has seen off the hounds in his constituency by 396 votes to 193. If Mr Heseltine's chief lieutenant can survive, then probably so will the others. Chris Patten, the party chairman, has rang around constituency bigwigs trying to lower the temperature and John Major has appealed publicly for no recriminations. Most associations where there have been complaints will content themselves with a rap over the knuckles for an MP who voted against their inclinations.

The flurry of activity over the leadership has in some cases given the opportunity to those disgruntled with their MP to question his future. Mr Critchley, for example, has long had his troubles at Aldershot. And MPs who did not let their locals know what they were doing are likely to have a harder time than the others. Securing home base in politics is like driving on the Continent: it does not much matter what you do so long as you signal clearly in advance what you are planning.

But the trauma over Mrs Thatcher's departure has brought to a head all the old questions about what an MP owes his constituents, especially the activists who work hardest to ensure his election. We have moved on from the days when Burke admitted he had been a little lax in visiting his patch, conceding that "an annual complimentary visit is a mark of decent attention and respect".

Former Tory MP Patrick Wolrige-Gordon, when having constituency bother, once tartly enquired if he was to be a lapdog for a few or a watchdog for all. And one of those who has been facing troubles lately warned that if the threatened few were to be deselected then the Tory party would become a sham democracy, with members subject to an automatic caucus.

As Spelthorne MP David Wilshire put it in the Commons this week, closing the capital punishment debate: "We must never confuse disagreeing with ignoring. There is a great difference. I do not ignore my constituents, I just profoundly disagree with them.

"What do we owe our constituents? We owe them not only our enthusiasm and hard work, but our integrity. If we were to listen to some constituents, we would be listening to the mob." And that presumably goes for activists too.

The thought police closing off the American mind

Charles Bremner on the products of the Sixties who now impose their view of what is politically correct

In the Soviet Union of old, editors, teachers and tour guides could argue exhaustively to "prove" the basis of Leninism, the doctrine that held matters such as objective fact and individual rights to be bourgeois chimeras devised to oppress the peoples. One of the ironies of our age is that, just as the Soviet Union is shedding this repressive thinking, some of it has landed in America.

The phenomenon, which can be defined as a new spirit of intolerance, is already enshrined as orthodoxy in the university world and has now begun to touch society at large. To its opponents, the creed is known as PCism, and has nothing to do with computers. PCism stands for "politically correct-ism", a cluster of broadly left-wing attitudes designed to foster tolerance towards race, gender and class but which seem, in Orwellian fashion, to do the opposite.

More than 130 universities have issued edicts barring discussion of certain issues which constitute "verbal harassment". The University of Michigan's version prohibits "any behaviour, verbal or physical, that stigmatises or victimises an individual on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, handicap or Vietnam-era-veteran status". The University of Connecticut issued a proclamation banning "inappropriately directed laughter". At Smith College, "lookism" — the belief that appearance indicates a person's value — is taboo. Students at Tulane University are told they must always bear in mind that "we are all the progeny of a racist and sexist society". At Pennsylvania University, a student was reprimanded for supporting the concept of individual rights when, she was told, the rights of the group were what mattered. (That argument was, of course, the favourite weapon used against dissidents of the Brezhnev era.)

The president of the University of Northern Colorado had to apologise for a "grossly insensitive" decision to invite a Reagan administration official, albeit a woman, to give a lecture. At New York University's law school, students and teachers refused to take part in a mock trial in which a lesbian mother sought custody of her child; any argument against her case would be detrimental to homosexual rights, they said.

Beyond fad-prone academe, the PC sensibility has emerged in the wider world with a rise in what is known as tribal politics or the grievance industry. The result is a host of new euphemisms and self-censorship in deference to the supposed sensitivities of various "communities". In deference to the sensibilities of women, even establishment organs such as *The New York Times* are replacing the word "man" with "adult male". When *The Taming of the Shrew* was staged in Central Park this year, the text was bowdlerised to avoid offending women.

This outlook is, of course, shared with academics in Europe and can be found in the remnants of Britain's loony left. All, like the American professors enforcing the new purity, were nurtured in the 1960s. The difference is that in America, a country with a tendency to ideological enthusiasm, PCism has become part of a broader malaise, a factor in today's breakdown of social consensus. The most worrying aspect of this is fashionable contempt for the notion that America shares a common culture, built mainly on the achievements of European ancestors. Just as the Soviets are rewriting their history, school administrators from New York to Los Angeles are embroiled in disputes about how to remove a "Eurocentric" bias from their textbooks.

Linked to this is the cult of self-esteem, the doctrine which holds that non-white pupils fail because they are not taught enough about the achievements of their race. According to the new fundamentalism, whose ayatollahs are to be found in university humanities' departments, Western civilisation is a sorry tale of oppression in which white males enslaved women, the poor and non-whites. Lecturers ridicule the works of Milton, Socrates, Racine and all other members of that reviled species known generically as the Dead White European Male or Dwem. Proust and Alexander the Great have been partially exempted because of their homosexuality. The biggest PC villain at present is Christopher Columbus, the Dwem who visited imperialism on America.

Underpinning the PC approach is the school of post-structuralist criticism that views all writing as "text" to be decoded to reveal a political agenda, and which holds truth and falsehood to be meaningless concepts. As quite a few critics have noted lately, Stalin and George Orwell got there first.

Applied PC manifests itself in the way black defendants have developed a street version of the doctrine, insisting they cannot be guilty of anything because they are victims of centuries of oppression, and any verdict to the contrary is invalid. This was the argument voiced by supporters of the two black teenagers convicted of raping the Central Park jogger — as it had been by lawyers during the trial.

The politically correct are not having things all their own way, however. Allan Bloom led the counter-attack with his best-seller, *The Closing of the American Mind*, in 1987. Saul Bellow stoked the fire by noting: "When the Zulus have a Tolstoy, we will read him." And this month John Searle, philosophy professor at Berkeley, dissected the fallacies of the PC creed in the *New York Review of Books*.

A counter-revolution is also being waged on American campuses by the National Association of Scholars, which accuses universities of abandoning education in favour of political indoctrination. Commentators in the mainstream press have also been weighing in. *The Wall Street Journal* accused universities of trying to brainwash the young, and there are signs of a backlash in the broader world, particularly in the South, where figures such as Senator Jesse Helms are tapping reaction to the politics of sensitivity.

The most intriguing question is how did the PC culture become so powerful in a country dominated by conservative politics? George Will, the conservative commentator, sees it as a function of the collective guilt generated in the 1960s and from which Americans still suffer, despite a decade of Reaganism. Some look back to America's Puritan tradition and yet others think it is a way of trying to escape responsibility for crushing social troubles, manifested by a high murder rate and declining literacy.

David Rieff, a writer, argues in *Esquire* this month that ever since Benjamin Franklin's day, Americans have believed they can ignore the facts and legislate happiness. "There is no point in pretending, as Americans so often do, that the world is not a tragic place," he says; however insensitive it may appear, the first step to recovery is to scrap the notion that groups count more than individuals.

As Russians like to say, it is no accident that Gorbachev truly broke with the past when he made the same point.

...and moreover

Craig Brown

Exclusive! A reminder of the events of 1991 (Part One):

January 1: The BBC begins first showing of the new 51-part Delia Smith series, *Cooking for Christmas 1991*. "Planning well ahead can save so much bother," says Miss Smith, basting a preliminary chipolata. **5th:** Cordelia Gummer resigns her post as John Gummer's official taster. "I want to spend less time with my family," she explains. **19th:** Mrs Thatcher's resignation honours list includes an OBE for Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of her regular attendance at audiences with the prime minister.

February 3: Undaunted by charges of plagiarism over her last children's book, the Duchess of York publishes a brand new one, *Mary Pippins*. **22nd:** Edwina Currie, frustrated by her absence from the public eye, gains publicity by announcing her intention to join the Labour party. **23rd:** The Labour party announces its intention to join the Conservatives.

March 2: Following the furore over the Duchess of York's new children's book, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia steps in. "It was fate," he says. "If it had not been published in Britain, it would have been published somewhere else and at the same predestined moment." **16th:** Jesse Jackson is photographed helping Cordelia Gummer off the plane as she flees from her family. **30th:** The EC declares the Gummer a vegetable.

April 7: The most startling of many claims in the serialised extracts from Sir Norman Fowler's new autobiography is that he was once a senior cabinet minister under Mrs Thatcher. Politicians known to have been ministers at the time he mentions deny all memory of the man. **13th:** Back in her father's clutches, Cordelia Gummer is photographed eating Mrs Emma Nicholson between two buns in an attempt to convince the general public that she is not poisonous. **20th:** Allegations of child abuse in Hampstead will not die down. Social workers claim that the average Hampstead child abuses his parents on a regular basis by a) flatly refusing to switch off the Ninja Turtles video and b) taking not a scrap of interest in the delightful rhymes of A.A. Milne. Many Hampstead parents have already been taken into care for their own protection.

May 1: A.N. Wilson faces legal action following his interview in *The Spectator* with Mick Jagger. "Mr Jagger is too old to know exactly what was going on," his counsel claims. Jagger's alleged admissions in the interview that he "never took drugs" and that he "prefers a tune you can hum along to" will, says his counsel, "cause untold damage to the singer's reputation". **9th:** In the absence of a two-hour awards progamme on television for a full fortnight, the BBC announces the creation of the Award-Winners Compere's Awards in which Mr Ned Sherrin presents an award to himself and is seen in cut-away smiling with a half-amused expression at his own acceptance speech.

June 4: Five Etonian Tory MPs are discovered in hiding on the Yorkshire moors. They are disguised as rustics, their hair dishevelled and straw dangling from their mouths, but their tailcoats give them away. Since the new year, Etonians have been barred from the Conservative party, though it is believed that some have managed to hang on at high levels of government. "I never went to Eton! My father was a bus conductor," screamed a distraught Nicholas Soames as he was led away, still protesting his innocence. **7th:** Mr Neil Kinnock makes his first major speech on the ERM. "Let me make my position quite clear, plain, definite and unambiguous," he says. "I favour 45 ERM for singles and 33ERM for LPs — and so does Glenys." **12th:** Perrier announces that it is to market Perrier Sans Eau, attractively packaged bottles of nothing at all. "The bubbles in our water have always proved popular," a spokesman says, "so we are proud to announce a bottle containing a single, family-sized bubble." Health experts everywhere welcome the product, advising that previous risks of contamination are now greatly reduced, and dieticians applaud the new bottle as free of all calories.

THE TIMES DIARY

That's really big of you, Mac

Cameron Mackintosh, the theatrical impresario, has set out to prove that he emphatically is *not* against Asian actors. Earlier this year some were upset by his insistence that Jonathan Pryce, who is Welsh, continue to play the lead role of a Eurasian pimp when his musical *Miss Saigon* went to Broadway. Now the Mackintosh Foundation is financing Britain's first Chinese theatrical company, which aims to re-interpret the classics of the English stage with oriental casts.

"This is not a case of buying off the Chinese community," says Nick Allott, Mackintosh's executive producer. "We don't feel we have anything to make amends for. The decision to cast Jonathan Pryce was because he was the best man for the job. It was not about European actors versus Asian."

Indeed, says Allott, Mackintosh has long taken an interest in the quality of Asian theatre and has been involved in a number of measures intended to help Asian artists, including a school where they are given free training.

The British Chinese Theatre company was founded by Susan Leong, the first Chinese actress to join the RSC. Its debut production next month will be the Jacobean family tragedy, *The Changeling*, at the Finborough Theatre Club in Chelsea. "It was chosen because it reflects many aspects of the Chinese social structure," says a spokesman for the company. Mackintosh hopes to be in the first-night audience. Will Jonathan Pryce be with him?

● *Dismay among the good souls of the Conservative party's National Union. The perks of the job are not enormous, but the 150 party representatives enjoy a platform seat at conferences and always receive a personally signed Christmas card from the prime minister. At least, they did under Mrs Thatcher. Less than a week to go and not a sign of a festive greeting from John Major...*

Home fires

Yesterday's announcement of additional shelter for the homeless has come just in time for those living in London's most famous cardboard city under Waterloo Bridge. They are to be moved on in the New Year when the bridge is closed for urgent repairs. Lambeth council is having to spend £200,000 to replace

concrete sheathing enclosing the steel poles which support the bridge — the damage having been caused by the dossers' fires.

Those not found alternative accommodation as a result of yesterday's announcement will be allowed to shift their cardboard homes elsewhere in the South Bank complex. "There's nowhere else for them to go at the moment," says Harvi Mudhar, the borough engineer. But while Lambeth's Labour council will suggest that no more fires be lit, there will be no ban. "You would need a permanent police presence," says Mudhar.

Reluctant allies

One of the strangest tales from Baghdad in recent days concerns the far-left Labour MP Ron Brown and the French National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who were there simultaneously to secure the release of hostages.

With an eye, as always, for sympathetic publicity, the Iraqi authorities urged the politically chalk and cheese duo jointly to sponsor a peace mission to Europe. Brown declined, declaring: "War would break out in Scotland if I joined in anything with M Le Pen." Undeterred, the Iraqi National Assembly sent a further delegation urging him to think again. Brown suggested that they had confused Le Pen with Tony Benn, and says that judging by their red faces, he was right.

The British hostages, however, did not share his scruples. Brown told them there were 35 seats available as far as Istanbul on the plane taking Le Pen home — and they leapt at the chance.

Top table at last

A remarkable dinner was recently held in honour of Charles Webb, a man who has surely witnessed at first hand more of Britain's post-war political history than almost anyone alive. He was right next to the seat of power during the Suez affair and during the Falklands. He steered those deciding how best to cope with the Profumo scandal, and he shuttled to and fro during the resignations of Nigel Lawson and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

But Webb's name will not be found in any of the memoirs and diaries of the period. Until his retirement, he was a Whitehall chauffeur for 44 years, most of them spent driving the cabinet secretary. He served six of them.

What secrets Webb learnt will go with him to the grave, for such men are the soul of discretion. Some of the history he witnessed and overheard, however, was relived over the port at his retirement dinner, attended by three cabinet secretaries, Sir Robin Butler, the current holder of the post, Lord Hunt and Lord Armstrong, his predecessors, plus Lady Trend, the widow of a fourth. Nor could the venue have been more appropriate. As Webb took his seat at the table at Brooks's, the St James's club, his bosses past and present must surely have been reminded of the countless hours he spent waiting for them outside.

Shipshape logic

Commander Michael Saunders Watson, chairman of the British Library, has left his plush offices in Wardour Street and moved into a Portakabin on the building site in Euston that will eventually be the library's new home. "The site is just like an aircraft carrier in a dockyard," says Saunders Watson, who was formerly naval chief of staff in the Caribbean. He even likens the new library building to a ship — "all boiler rooms and pipes".

Life in a Portakabin is a long way, too, from the family seat at Rockingham Castle, Leicestershire, but Saunders Watson is prepared to put up with the lack of comfort. "At least I've got a boot under the contractors," he says. Yet even if the builders meet their completion deadline of 1996, his tribulations will soon begin anew. "We are accumulating five miles of new books a year," he says. "By 1998 we shall be full up. I am already starting to look for somewhere else to store them."

● *Michael Turner, former managing director of Associated Book Publishers, has just received a response from a man in Nigeria to an advertisement in* The Bookseller *for an "enterprising manager". "I shall be grateful if you can please consider this application if the post is still vacant," he wrote in a letter dated October 29, 1990. Alas, it is not. The advert appeared in December 1969.*

Ershad taken from official residence to house arrest

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

HUSSAIN Ershad, ousted as president of Bangladesh last week, was ordered out of his official residence inside a military garrison yesterday and placed under house arrest in a Dhaka mansion with his wife and five-year-old son.

The huge house, directly opposite the British High Commission in the diplomatic enclave of Gulshan, was surrounded by police who set up tents in the garden. The building was once the official residence of the British High Commissioner.

Mr Ershad, aged 60, his wife Raushan, aged 55, and their son Shad were escorted by police out of the garrison and driven in a long convoy of police vehicles to the house. Witnesses said that they looked distressed.

Opposition leaders have been demanding for days that Mr Ershad be ordered out of the official residence. Earlier yesterday, students held demonstrations demanding his arrest, and gave a warning that a mass campaign would be relaunched within 24 hours unless he was charged.

The caretaker government, headed by Shahabuddin Ahmed, chief justice of the supreme court, did not say when Mr Ershad would be charged, although there were reports that he might be accused in the next few days of corruption, gold smuggling and misuse of state funds.

The powerful army is deeply unhappy with the prospect of a trial, since it would further sully its reputation and might embarrass other top-ranking soldiers suspected of corruption. The two main political parties, both staunchly anti-Ershad, privately favour sending the former general into exile abroad but are being forced by public opinion to back the demand for a trial.

Dhaka university students marched jubilantly through the capital last night after the government announced Mr Ershad's arrest. But they were unhappy that the deposed president, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1972, is being given VIP treatment. They said he should be put in the central jail. Many demanded that he should be hanged because of the deaths of student demonstrators in the past two months.

Mr Ershad was arrested under the Special Powers Act, which he had used to arrest demonstrators and to attempt to quell student unrest. He resigned last week after army generals withdrew their support because of fears that the country was running out of control after a seven-week student-lead uprising. Since resigning Mr Ershad has been under protective custody in the Dhaka cantonment. Students yesterday threatened to storm it if he was not evicted.

Former ministers in Mr Ershad's administration have gone underground because of an intensive drive against Ershad allies by the caretaker government. Mahmudul Hasan, the former home miniser, is under house arrest and senior Ershad appointees in the civil service have been dismissed or transferred. A senior police official said he had received orders to arrest former cabinet ministers, but so far only Mr Hasan had been traced. Political leaders made a lengthy list of people who should be tried for corruption and other alleged offences.

The government's cautious moves against Mr Ershad reflect its nervousness at upsetting the army, which has been in charge directly or indirectly for 15 of Bangladesh's 19 years as an independent country. But there are no indications that the military wants to stage a coup.

The exact election date has yet to be announced because the Ershad-appointed election committee is being reconstituted. The Awami League, headed by Sheikha Hasina Wazed, is widely regarded as the most likely winner.

$1m bounty renewed for Rushdie

Nicosia — An Iranian charity organization repeated its $1 million (£515,000) offer for the head of Salman Rushdie, the British author, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

The 15th of Khordad Foundation, which offered the reward soon after the late Ayatollah Khomeini called for Mr Rushdie's head in 1988, said that its bounty was still available. Khomeini alleged that Mr Rushdie, who went into hiding, had defamed Islam in his novel, *The Satanic Verses*. *(AP)*

Reporter freed

Medellin — Colombian cocaine barons freed Hero Buss, a German journalist, after he spent more than three months in captivity. *(Reuter)*

Whales drown

Hyannis Port, Massachusetts — Some 45 stranded pilot whales which beached on a nearby island were either drowning as the tide rose or were being given a lethal injection by would-be rescuers who wanted to end their suffering. *(AFP)*

Fatal jump

Auckland — Jason John Collett, aged 19, who was in charge of an amusement park bungee jump in New Zealand that caused the death of a man, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service after being convicted of manslaughter. *(AP)*

Woman governor

Wellington — The former mayor of Auckland, Dame Cath Tizard, aged 59, was sworn in as the first woman governor-general of New Zealand. *(Reuter)*

Side by side: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, addressing a rally in Tokoza yesterday, as Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister, listens intently

Zulus force Mandela to retreat from township

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, yesterday visiting some of the Johannesburg black township areas worst affected by recent faction violence, was confronted by a mob of angry Zulus who swore at him, attacked an African National Congress car and forced his peace mission of political and church leaders to retreat in disarray.

The incident occurred as the delegation, led by the ANC's deputy president, approached a workers' hostel in Tokoza, where more than 80 people have been killed this week in clashes between Zulu members of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Xhosa residents who broadly support the ANC. About a hundred Zulu men and women, some brandishing crude weapons and placards, chanted "Away, get out Mandela". As armed riot police converged on the scene, a screaming woman struck a car flying an ANC flag with a metal pipe. Mr Mandela, visibly shaken, was hustled away by aides.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, on a separate tour of the township, blamed the ANC for the continuing strife. Addressing about 2,000 armed supporters he claimed that the ANC had provoked the violence by waging a campaign against the KwaZulu tribal homeland, of which he is chief minister.

The nature of the visits highlighted the antagonism between the two leaders and their political manoeuvering. Chief Buthelezi, after saying he could not join the church mission because of other commitments, surprised observers by turning up with Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister.

ANC opposition to direct talks between Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi, and the latter's refusal to attend larger peace forums, have compromised their respective calls for an end to the violence. The ANC said yesterday that there were no plans for the two to meet before the new year.

Of more immediate concern to ANC activists is the return from 30 years' exile of Oliver Tambo, their ailing president, who is expected to be given a hero's welcome when he arrives in South Africa today. Mr Tambo, aged 73, who is recovering from a stroke, will address the opening session of a crucial ANC conference near Johannesburg tomorrow, which will debate strategy for forthcoming negotiations with the government on constitutional reforms.

ANC officials had planned to mobilise tens of thousands of supporters at Jan Smuts international airport, but the government has asked them for security reasons to restrict the welcoming party to 60. Mr Tambo, who has been partially paralysed by his illness, is expected to spend three weeks in South Africa before returning to London for more treatment.

He will be given a standing ovation by more than 1,600 delegates to the consultative conference, the first of its kind in South Africa since the ANC was banned in 1959, but unity on political issues is less likely. After almost a year of political freedom, the organisation has failed to attract the mass support it expected and is riven by internal divisions on how to respond to the government's reform initiatives.

While Mr Mandela's continued leadership is assured, there is growing disaffection among exiles and militant young people demanding mass protest action to galvanise support and hasten the transfer of power to the black majority.

The ANC had originally intended to hold a national conference which would have reshuffled the leadership, but this has been postponed until next June on the ground that many members are still in prison or in exile.

Leading article, page 15

Attack on Seoul superpower links

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea said yesterday that peace on the bitterly divided Korean peninsula had to be achieved without interference from outsiders, pointing indirectly to South Korea's links with the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We only wonder when this dependence on outside forces and flunkyist way of thinking, impairing national dignity and interests, will disappear," said Yon Hyong Muk, the North Korean prime minister. "If we depend upon foreign forces, we cannot but be subjected to their interference, cannot but be worried about their attitude," he declared.

Mr Yon's comments came at the opening of the third round of talks since September between the prime ministers of the two Koreas on easing the political and military tensions which divide them.

The opening-day session lasted about two hours.

President Roh of South Korea flies to Moscow today for a meeting with President Gorbachev. The Soviet Union, a long-time ally of the communist North, established diplomatic relations with Seoul two months ago and Mr Roh's trip has been bitterly criticized by the North as an attempt to sabotage the talks between Seoul and Pyongyang. No immediate agreement is expected, but the talks are seen as one more step in the lengthy process of drawing the two nations closer. "The talks showed how big and wide are the valleys of distrust between the two sides," said Limb Dong Won, a spokesman for the South Korean delegation.

Mr Yon, in turn, reiterated a demand for the immediate withdrawal of 43,000 American troops based in South Korea, the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons which, he claims, Washington is storing in the South, and a halt to the annual US-South Korean military manoeuvres, called Team Spirit.

He called for direct talks between North Korea and Washington on replacing the 1953 armistice agreement which ended the three-year Korean War with a peace treaty. South Korea refused to sign the armistice.

The North Koreans also demanded that the South cease efforts to join the United Nations unless it agrees to share a seat with the North and that it release dissidents who have been jailed for contacts with North Koreans.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 18: The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Headquarters Foot Guards at Wellington Barracks.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Major-General Simon Cooper (Major-General Commanding London Division), Colonel Sir Brian Bertelot, Bt. (Colonel Foot Guards) and Lieutenant-Colonel Julian Lancaster (Chief of Staff).

Having toured the Headquarters, The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Lieutenant-Colonel I.H. McNeil (Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards) with her presence at luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Right Hon. John Major, M.P. (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, held a meeting of the International Trustees, at Buckingham Palace this afternoon.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon. Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 18: The Prince Edward this morning attended a reception given by Municipal General Insurance Limited at Old Queen Street, London SW1 in support of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 18: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded the Lady Elizabeth Basset as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 18: The Prince of Wales arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt this afternoon from Paris, France.

Mr. Peter Westmacott and Mr. Richard Arbiter were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, presented the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers' Duke of Cornwall Award for 1990 at the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, London W1.

Mr. David Landale was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron, The National Trust 1990 Storm Appeal for Trees, held a reception at Kensington Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, London City Ballet, received Mr. John Hughes (Chairman) at Kensington Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, today attended a Meeting of the Central Executive Committee held at the Association of Accounting Technicians, 154 Clerkenwell Road.

Her Royal Highness was present this evening at "Joy to the World" held at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of Childrens's Charities.

Lady Aird was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 18: The Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Samaritans, this evening attended the annual Christmas Celebration at Westminster Cathedral, London SW1.

Mrs Peter Wilmot-Sitwell was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, will attend receptions at St James's Palace at 11.30 and 4.00 for young people who have reached the gold standard.

The Duchess of York will present the Children of Courage awards in Westminster Abbey at 10.55.

The Duke of Kent will attend the London Fire Brigade's annual service of Christmas carols in St Paul's Cathedral at 6.55.

New Riba chief aims for better public image

By Charles Knevitt
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE first priority of Richard MacCormac, the next president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, will be to "build bridges" between the profession and the public. Mr MacCormac, who was elected on Monday after a record poll of the institute's 28,000 members, will take up his two-year post in July.

In his first interview since he beat the official Riba candidate into third place, Mr MacCormac said: "I want to make it clear that there are inventive and sensitive architects around."

He intends to emphasise consensus in place of the confrontation which exists at present, and bring an end to the "false dichotomies" in the architectural debate. "There is a watershed of opinion about architecture and the environment. The backlash against buildings of the 1960s and 1970s has exhausted itself; we should be confident about the quality of what we do now."

His victory could be interpreted as a "protest vote", he said, hinting that architects had tired of the strident position adopted by his immediate predecessors, especially in their dealings with the Prince of Wales, who has prompted renewed public interest in architecture.

Michael Hopkins, Edward Cullinan, Eva Jiricna and John Outram are among his favourite architects and he enjoys some buildings by Sir Denys Lasdun. Their work represents a "search for authenticity", through a variety of approaches, a belief in quality and craftsmanship and attention to detail, rather than the "cobbling together of clichés" of post-modernism.

Christenings

The daughter and infant son of Mr and Mrs David Elliott were christened Charlotte Victoria and Harry George Enzo by Captain the Rev Michael Joint, at St Thomas', Lymington, on December 9. The godparents are Mr Edward Dubois, the Hon Mrs Susannah Moss, Mrs Ray Hearder, Mr Nicholas Anderson, Mr Stephen Akester and Miss Veronica Hammett.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Edward Parry, Arctic explorer, Bath, 1790; Sir Ralph Richardson, actor, Cheltenham, 1902.

DEATHS: Vitus Bering, navigator, Bering Island, 1741; David Hartley the younger, statesman and inventor, Bath, 1813; Augustus Charles Pugin, architect, London, 1832; Emily Brontë, poet and novelist, Haworth, Yorkshire, 1848; Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter, London, 1851.

Birthdays today

Sir Anthony Buck, QC, MP, 62; Lord Dulverton, 75; Mr Timothy Eggar, MP, 39; Dame Catherine Hall, former general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 68; Brigadier L.J. Harris, cartographer, 80; Sir Brian Hill, chairman, Higgs and Hill, 58; Mr Syd Little, comedian, 48; Sir William Murrie, civil servant, 87; the Marquess of Queensbury, 61; Count Edward Raczynski, former president, Polish government-in-exile, 99; Sir David Rowe-Ham, former Lord Mayor of London, 55; Sir John Tilney, former MP, 83; Lord Weir, 59.

Luncheon

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Sir Idris Pearce, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, yesterday entertained at luncheon at 12 Great George Street the Hon Francis Maude, Financial Secretary at HM Treasury.

OBITUARIES

PAUL TORTELIER

Paul Tortelier, French cellist, died near Paris yesterday aged 76. He was born on March 21, 1914.

PAUL Tortelier was considered among the most versatile, intelligent and sensitive musicians of his generation. In addition to his appreciable skills as a player — in his younger days he was unquestionably a virtuoso — he was an interpreter with an irrepressibly romantic bent. Looking not a little like Cervantes's Don Quixote, he impersonated that hero in Richard Strauss's tone poem *Don Quixote* with unrivalled empathy, characterising the courtly, sad knight with a tenderness of tone and depth of feeling that always caught at the heart of the listener. He first came to prominence in Britain when he played the solo in this work under Beecham and recorded it with him. He was later to record it with equal success under Kempe and Karajan, yet Tortelier was quite able to restrain his ebullience when he turned his attention to unaccompanied works by Bach. Here his disciplined approach allied to his innate sense of rhythm gave Bach's pure line both classical profile and breadth of feeling.

Another of Tortelier's considerable gifts was as an imaginative teacher. He taught not only privately (Jacqueline du Pré and Artur Noras were among his pupils) but also in master classes. Indeed he was the first musician (in 1964) to popularise the master class on BBC television. With his deep-set, expressive eyes, his unruly mob of white hair and broken but articulate English he captivated his audience as much as his pupils. Unlike some of his successors, he never used these classes as an ego trip; they were serious occasions, filled with ripe wisdom combined with technical advice of a detailed kind.

Tortelier took up the cello at the age of six. He enrolled at the Paris Conservatoire a few years later and graduated with honours when he was 16, playing the Elgar Concerto to win the *premier prix*. A year later he made his debut at the Concerts Lamoureux. He continued with his studies, now in harmony and composition, until in 1935 he became principal cellist with the Monte Carlo Orchestra.

In 1937 he was invited by Koussevitsky to lead the cello section of the Boston Symphony, allowing him to play many solo parts in the orchestral repertory. He remained there until 1940 when he returned to Paris to take a similar position with the Conservatoire Orchestra. His aforementioned appearance with Beecham in *Don Quixote* in 1947 launched his international career. Before undertaking the work in London, he had played it in Amsterdam with the Concertgebouw under Beecham who immediately invited him to play it with him and his own orchestra, the RPO, at the London Strauss Festival in 1947 in the composer's presence. His American solo debut was with the Boston Symphony in 1955. In 1957 he was appointed a professor at the Paris Conservatoire.

Tortelier played all the central repertory for the cello, being particularly partial to the Dvořák and Elgar concertos. But he was a firm advocate of more recent concertos, by Shostakovich and Walton, for his instrument. He also loved to play the sonata and chamber music repertory, preferably in the company of members of his own family. His wife, Maud, was also a cellist, one of his three daughters, Maria de la Pan, a pianist, his son, Yan Pascal, a violinist and conductor. Tortelier himself conducted from time to time from 1971 onwards. As a composer he wrote many solos for one and more cellos, inconsequential but delightful. Several were included at a special concert to mark his 75th birthday at the Festival Hall in 1989, in which his wife and his son Yan Pascal, the conductor, partook in his celebrations. More serious works included his *Israel Symphony* written after living for a year at a kibbutz in Israel, 1955-6, *Le Grand Drapeau*, a choral work, and *Offrande*, a tribute to Beethoven.

He felt that music was a language which could communicate to a wider world than words could reach. He considered that a native intepreter was not necessarily the best person to play the works of his own land and proved his point in the sonatas of Beethoven and the concertos of Elgar and Shostakovich, which he treated as works with a universal appeal. Everything he did was stamped with his impassioned personality.

SIR PAUL GREY

Sir Paul Grey, KCMG, British ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1957 to 1960, and to Switzerland, 1960 to 1964, died on December 15, aged 82. He was born on December 2, 1908.

IN A varied diplomatic career Paul Grey was minister in the British embassy in Moscow at the time of Stalin's death, and ambassador in Prague during cold war years. He was born in Lahore, where his father was a barrister, and educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, where he was a convert to Roman Catholicism — greatly inspired by Cardinal Newman. The spiritual sustenance of Catholicism was strengthened by his marriage in 1936 to Agnes Weld-Blundell. Throughout this long and happy marriage, their joint faith irradiated both their public and private lives.

Paul Grey joined the Foreign Office in 1934 and throughout a distinguished career in many countries was inspired both by the tradition of service of his own family and by his overwhelming sense of the need for integrity in political life. In both senses he felt himself in the tradition of Edward Grey (foreign secretary in the first world war, of whom he was a distant kinsman), seeking the same sense of balance between personal and political life, and drawing strength from love of natural history, plants and bird life. But in the post-war years his feeling, too, that "the lamps are going out all over Europe" (Edward Grey was referring to the outbreak of the first world war) was related increasingly by him to the break-up of political, cultural and moral life.

In his first post abroad in Rome (1937) he had been part of the struggle against Mussolini and after the war was, as chargé d'affaires in The Hague, responsible for opening up the British embassy when the Nazis were still in the sand dunes at Scheveningen. He became increasingly aware that the struggle for freedom — be it against fascism or communism — was threatened by the lack of experienced leaders, statesmen necessary for the successful management of political life after the overthrow of tyranny. This conviction was increased by the experience of being in Russia at the time of Stalin's death, (after a spell in Portugal) and as ambassador in Prague (1957-60). Although his last post was as ambassador in Berne, it was this time in Eastern Europe which most convinced him that the crucial question of our age would be the eventual integration of the Eastern European countries within a changed Europe.

Paul Grey was knighted in 1963 and retired to England in the following year. Although increasingly sadder by what he saw as the break-up of the fabric of British life, which he attributed both to the collapse of politics into monetarism and the erosion of Christian values in the sphere of public action, he was nonetheless indefatigable in his efforts to keep alive a widened vision of politics as it concerned human well-being. As a member of the Catholic Union he strongly upheld attempts to preserve these values. As a Knight of Malta he was active in an enormous range of charitable work.

He leaves his widow and three sons.

PROFESSOR OTTO SKUTSCH

Professor Otto Skutsch, Professor of Latin at University College London, from 1951 to 1972, now Professor Emeritus, died on December 8 aged 84. He was born on December 6, 1906.

THE peaceful death of Otto Skutsch two days after his 84th birthday takes from us a Latin scholar of prodigious learning, compassion and humanity. He was born in Breslau (now the Polish city of Wroclaw), Silesia, to a Jewish father, Franz Skutsch, himself a Latinist, and Selma Dorff. He was educated, in times which became increasingly dire as his days as first schoolboy and then student proceeded, at Breslau's Friedrichs-Gymnasium, and then at the universities of Breslau, Kiel, Berlin and Göttingen. He took his PhD at Göttingen in 1934. By this time the Nazis were firmly installed in power and in 1935 he fled from Germany to England. Like many others in a similar situation he was later, soon after the outbreak of war, briefly interned as an alien, an ironical vicissitude for one who could of course have been implicitly trusted by his newly-adopted countrymen.

In 1938 he married Gillian, daughter of the late Sir Findlater Stewart, GCB, GCIE, CSI. He was initially at St Andrews and Queen's University, Belfast, before moving to Manchester where he became senior lecturer in 1949. But it was a happy day for University College London when he was appointed in 1951 to the chair of Latin once occupied by A. E. Housman, which he held with immense distinction until his retirement in 1972.

His monumental edition of Ennius's *Annals*, which he withheld until he felt incapable of making any further improvement, serves as a model to all scholars of the exacting requirements for the highest scholarship: the unremitting search for relevant evidence and the circumspect examination of it, as well as abstinence from unwarranted conjecture but the enterprise to resort to the hypotheses which an informed imagination can provide. That Skutsch was not recognised as England's first Latinist he seemed not to notice; nor will the posterity of classical scholarship, who will rank him with those to whom his edition of the *Annals* is dedicated: Franz Skutsch, Eduard Fraenkel, Wallace Lindsay, Alfred Housman.

One of his endearing qualities was his unbounded admiration for his short-lived father, Franz, whose scholarship he rated above his own. Perhaps this *pietas* nurtured his own essential humility, not obvious at first but gradually borne in on all who learnt from him that knowledge of one's own ignorance is the very gateway to wisdom. It was his father's expertise in Roman republican literature which determined his own academic ambitions. He began by making signal contributions to the study of Plautus and Terence (his first publication was the discovery of new subtleties in the Law of Iambic Shortening), but he soon marked out as his chosen field the study of Quintus Ennius, the father of Latin literature.

Several trips to university centres in North America as a visiting professor, or to research at the Institute for Advanced study at Princeton, or latterly simply to visit friends, brought him obvious pleasure and enormously increased the circle of his admirers. Harvard scholars still talk of his entrancing courses on Cicero's *De Re Publica* and Tacitus in 1958, and he thrilled with impish joy all those who heard his latest talk at Yale (a *bonne bouche* after meatier fare), "Otto Skutsch remembers", in which he spoke affectionately of the great German scholars he had known in his youth and delighted his audience with imitations of the legendary Wilamowitz.

He never lost his love for Germany, its literature, its music, and its culture. Brighter times long after the end of the second world war found him lecturing there and — for he was a strong and vigorous man — happily walking for miles along the Rhine or Neckar, preferably in the company of his longtime friend, Andreas Thierfelder, a classical scholar at Mainz University.

With the publication of his *Annals* close to his 80th birthday he was made an honorary fellow of the British Academy, receiving also honorary degrees at Padua and St Andrews.

Otto Skutsch struck a memorable figure, a dapper straightbacked man invariably wearing a bow tie, speaking with a deep and resolute voice, characterised by a distinct guttural accent in which to one's surprise the most elegant and impeccable English was uttered. Few other scholars can so have affected those with whom they came into contact by their simple goodness. Students in particular felt shamed at their inadequacies and were perpetually moved by the stimulus of his own mind to do their best.

Skutsch is survived by his wife, one son and three daughters.

Dinner

Turners' Company
The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs were the guests of honour at a dinner given by the Master and Wardens of the Turners' Company at Apothecaries' Hall last night. Mr B.C. Johnston, Master, presided and presented the Lord Mayor with a silver-mounted mazer. Mr M. Simmonds, Upper Warden, and Sir Leslie Fletcher also spoke. The Headquarters REME, TA Unit, who won the field competition earlier this year, provided the guard of honour and were presented with the Turners' Shield.

Petition over abbey ceremony

A MEMBER of the Church of England's General Synod yesterday presented a 76,000-signature petition at Buckingham Palace addressed to the Queen, protesting at the multi-faith worship at recent Commonwealth Day observances in Westminster Abbey (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The General Synod distanced itself from the views of the Rev Anthony Higton, rector of Hawkwell, Essex, and leaders of other faiths said the petition was unrepresentative. Mr Higton said, however: "I was appalled to witness the worship of non-Christian deities at the Commonwealth Day observance in the presence of the Queen. Such worship contradicts the foundation of Christianity, which is that Jesus is the only way to God."

Leaders of the free churches, the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic Church, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism attended the observance. The petition calls on the Queen, as defender of the faith, to direct that all Commonwealth Day observances should be solely Christian. The petition goes against the trend in modern Christianity. The 1988 Lambeth Conference commended "dialogue with the people of other faiths as part of Christian discipleship". Sher Azam, head of the Council for Mosques in Bradford, said the the different religions had aimed to express their faith in [illegible]

Marriages

Mr A.D.P. Adams and Lady Leggatt
The marriage took place in London, on Monday, December 17, between Peter Adams and Jennifer Leggatt.

Mr C.R Hutchinson Smith and Miss B.J. Gurney
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 15, at the Church of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, of Mr Rupert Hutchinson Smith, elder son of Group Captain and Mrs David Hutchinson Smith, and Miss Belinda Gurney, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Gurney. Canon David Sharpe and the Ven Michael Paget Wilkes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Oliver and Richenda Dannatt, Sarah and Fiona Wynne-Parker, Olivia Curl, Robina Longworth, Alice French, Tom Hancock, Nicholas Waller, Guy Riches and Archie Leeming. Mr Giles Hutchinson Smith was best man.

Mr D.B.Kennaway and Miss C.J. Wallace
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 15, at St George's Church, Damerham, of Mr David Kennaway, younger son of the late Mr James Kennaway and Mrs Stanley Vereker, of La Garinie, Larroque, France, and Miss Caroline Wallace, elder daughter of Mr Alistair Wallace, of Manor Farm House, Damerham, Hampshire, and Mrs Guy Nicolson, of Warriston Crescent, Edinburgh. The Rev Michael Ridley and the Rev Humphrey Southern officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Katie Ford, Rose Thrower, Harriette de Iersey, Amanda Malmberg, Harry Dodd-Noble, Jack Reid and the Hon Edward Fairfax. Mr Patrick Cadell was best man.

A reception was held at Manor Farm House and the honeymoon will be spent [illegible]

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.R. Alexander and Miss A.H. Sandys-Renton
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Major-General and Mrs Paul Alexander, and Harriet, daughter of Sally and David Sandys-Renton, of Saffron Walden.

Captain J.D.T. Bainbridge and Miss C.S. Mills
The engagement is announced between James Bainbridge, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, younger son of the late Mr David Bainbridge and of Mrs David Bainbridge, of Hurworth Hall West, Darlington, Co Durham, and Sophie, elder daughter of Mr Nicholas and the Hon Mrs Mills, of Little Barrington, near Burford, Oxfordshire.

Mr R.J.H. Geffen and Miss C.M.A. Busk
The engagement is announced between Robin, elder son of the late Mr John Geffen and of Mrs Geffen, of Bracken Gardens, Barnes, and Camilla, daughter of Captain and Mrs Martin Busk, of Houghton Lodge, Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Mr S.A.M. Hester and Miss R.J. Abt
The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Professor and Dr Ronald Hester, of Crayke, Yorkshire, and Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Abt, of Calgary, Canada.

Mr D.A. Kunzer and Miss S.A. Aynsley-Green
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr Paul Kunzer and of the late Mrs Sheila Kunzer, of Shincliffe, Durham, and Sarah Anne, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs Albert Aynsley-Green, of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr D.S. McCreadie and Miss L.S. Fox
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr G.P., McCreadie, of Invergordon, and Mrs A. McCreadie, of Inverness, and Laura, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.L. [illegible]

Mr R.A.C. New and Miss C.M. Homer
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Major-General Sir Laurence and Lady New, of Sunninghill, Berkshire, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Homer, of Hill Court, Pershore, Worcestershire.

Mr M.G.H. Newton and Miss C.A. Stewart-Sandeman
The engagement is announced between Marcus Newton, Grenadier Guards, son of Mr and Mrs Roger Newton, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Nairne Stewart-Sandeman, of Cutross Street, London, and Mrs Wendy Stewart-Sandeman, of Park Walk, Chelsea.

Mr C.E. Osborn and Miss P.A. Evans
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Osborn, of Barborough, Derbyshire, and Penny, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Evans, of Stoke Abbott, Dorset.

Mr S.R. Pemberton and Miss S.J. Fowler
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Pemberton, of Latchingdon, Essex, and Sally, daughter of Mr R.D. Fowler and Mrs J. Fowler, both of Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex.

Mr S.J. Redlich and Miss S.N. Banks
The engagement is announced between Simon James, only son of Mr and Mrs W. Redlich, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and Sally Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.D. Banks, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

New royal patron for conference

THE Queen of Denmark has become the patron of the first pan-European conference on medieval archaeology, which will be held next year to mark the inauguration of the single market in the European Community (Norman Hammond writes).

The conference, to be held in York, will bring together archaeologists and historians from the Community, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. Members of Lithuania's Archaeological Institute will be taking part, along with scholars from northern Europe, Spain and Porugal who will present papers about their latest discoveries.

The conference will cover the archaeology, and related documentary sources of the period between the end of the Roman Empire, about A.D. 400, and the beginning of the Age of Discovery in the late fifteenth century, when Europe's centre of gravity shifted dramatically westward with the exploration of America and Africa.

The Queen of Denmark, Margarethe II, read archaeology at Cambridge university in the 1950s, and has continued to take an interest in the subject. It is not yet known, however, whether she will be able to attend the conference, in September 1992.

"This is the first opportunity for medieval archaeologists from across Europe to meet," Dr Julian Richards, [illegible]

Lord Caccia

Tickets for the thanksgiving service for the life of Lord Caccia to be held in Eton College Chapel at 2.45 pm, on Friday, January 18, 1991, will be [illegible]

Church news

The Rev Paul Bystath, Curate, Ilkeston, diocese Derby: to be Team Vicar, Pilsley, in the North Wingfield, Clay Cross and Pilsley team, same diocese.

The Rev Michael Clarke, Chaplain, St James's Hospital, Portsmouth, diocese Portsmouth: to be Chaplain, Hurstpierpoint College, diocese Chichester.

The Rev Peter Dadd, Vicar, All Saints, Gainsborough, diocese Lincoln: to be also a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev David Edgar, Assistant Curate, St Paul, Wood Green, Wednesbury, diocese Lichfield: to be Vicar, Winterton, diocese Lincoln.

The Rev John F Ford, Vicar, St Augustine, Lee, diocese Southwark: to be Vicar, Lower Beeding, and Chaplain to the Bishop of Horsham, diocese Chichester.

The Rev Philip M Freeman, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Runcorn, diocese Chester: to be Rector, St Martin, Ashton-on-Mersey, same diocese.

The Rev David J Fudger, Vicar, All Souls w. Christ Church and St Michael, Radford, diocese Southwell: to be Priest-in-charge, St Hugh, Charterhouse Mission, Bermondsey, diocese Southwark.

The Rev John Gibbons, Rector, the Horncastle group, diocese Lincoln: to be also Rural Dean of the Isle of Aveholme, same diocese.

The Rev David F Grant, Rector, St Clement and All Saints, Hastings, diocese Chichester: to be Rector, Ardwarth and Eaglean, same diocese.

The Rev Nigel Gunnie, Curate, St John the Baptist, Coventry, diocese Coventry: to be Cathedral Chaplain, Coventry Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Dale Hanson, Assistant Curate, St Andrew's Kowloon, diocese Hong Kong and Macao: to be Team Vicar in the St Aidan and St Luke team, Billingham, diocese Durham.

The Rev David Lawrence, Priest-in-charge, the Hemingby group of parishes, diocese Lincoln: to be Rector, the Hemingby group of parishes, same diocese.

The Rev Peter H T Lynes, Assistant Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, diocese Norwich: to be Vicar, Hockley, diocese Chelmsford, and Weld Newton, diocese York: to be Vicar, Bilton-in-Holderness, same diocese.

The Rev Donald R Marr, Vicar, St Boniface, Bunbury, diocese Chester: to be also Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Robert C Marsh, Curate, Christ Church and St Mary Magdalen, St Leonards on Sea, diocese Chichester: to be Team Vicar in the Crawley team, same diocese.

The Rev Christopher Marshall, Assistant Chaplain w. the South Beds Area Health Authority: to be Chaplain, St Helier Hospital, Carshalton, diocese Southwark.

The Rev Jeremy Martineau, until recently Secretary to the Archbishops' Commission on Rural Areas: to be Archbishop's Rural Officer, Rural Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, diocese Coventry.

The Rev Christopher J E Moody, Vicar, St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth, diocese Southwark: to be also Rural Dean of Lambeth, same diocese.

The Rev Christopher J Morris, Vicar, St John the Baptist, Upperby, Carlisle, diocese Carlisle: to be Priest-in-charge, Lamerton w. Kirkwhelpeck and Walton, same diocese.

The Rev Paul Noble, Priest-in-charge, Avening w. Charlington, diocese Gloucester: to be Vicar, The Suttons w. Tydd, diocese Lincoln.

The Rev Raymond J Pearson, Vicar, Hornby, Vicar, Caradhill and Vicar, Patrick Brompton w. Hunton, and Diocesan World Mission Officer, diocese Ripon: to be also Assistant Rural Dean of Wensley, same diocese.

The Rev Kate Powell, Parish Deacon, Broadwater, diocese Chichester: to be Assistant Chaplain, Christ's Hospital, Horsham, same diocese.

The Rev Ann E Samuels, Parish Deacon, Christ Church, Moreton, diocese Chester: to be Associate Minister, Helton, St Mary, same diocese.

The Rev Raymond J Sallough, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Moreton, diocese Chester: to be Vicar, Helton, St Mary, same diocese.

The Rev Paul R Seaman, Curate, St Michael, Tilehurst, diocese Oxford: to be Team Vicar in the Mousecoomb team, diocese Chichester.

Prison Chaplain, HM Prison, Brinsford, diocese Lichfield.

The Rev David P Shaw, Rector, Desford w. Peckleton w. Tooley, diocese Leicester: to be Priest-in-charge, Ramsden Crays and Ramsden Bellhouse, diocese Chelmsford.

The Rev Andrew J Simpson, Curate, All Saints, Gosforth, diocese Newcastle: to be Vicar, St Mary Magdalene, Long Benton, same diocese.

The Rev George Sturrington, Priest-in-charge, Barlaston and Hough group of parishes, diocese Lincoln: to be Vicar, Barlaston and Hough group of parishes, same diocese.

The Rev Ronald Sutton, Rector, Church Lawton, diocese Chester: to be also Rural Dean of Congleton, same diocese.

The Rev Noel H Toogood, Rector, Hochwald Wilhiel and Rural Dean of St Austell, diocese Truro: to be Vicar, Midhurst, same diocese.

The Rev Robert A L van Rijn, Curate, St Peters, Derby, diocese Derby: to be Chaplain, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, diocese Europe.

The Rev Raymond Walker, non-stipendiary minister, Great Salkeld and Lazonby, diocese Carlisle: to be stipendiary Assistant Curate in the Greystoke, Matson, same diocese.

The Rev Robert J Whittle, Assistant Curate, Henbury w. Brentry and Hallen, diocese Bristol: to be Vicar, Capel, diocese Guildford.

Resignations and Retirements

The Rev Canon John H Armstrong, Team Rector, York, All Saints, Pavement w. St Crux and St Martin w. St Helen and St Denys, diocese York: to retire as from 30 April 1991.

The Rev R Paul Bowen, Rector, Wansford, diocese Chelmsford: to retire as from 31 July 1991.

The Rev Martin E Brown, Vicar, Aysgarth and Bolton-cum-Redmire, diocese Ripon: to retire as Assistant Rural Dean of Wensley as from 31 December.

The Rev Ronald Pile, Vicar, Frisemey, diocese Lincoln: to retire as from 31 December 1990.

The Rev Cous E Hewitt, Rector, Burfield w. Boddington and Aston-le-Walls, diocese Peterborough: to resign [illegible]

عن الأصل

It is better to trust in the Lord than to depend on man: it is better to trust in the Lord than depend on human leaders
Psalm 118:8,9 GNB

BIRTHS

BLANSHARD - On December 9th, to Christine (née Oliver) and Nigel, a son, Maximilian Edward Alfred.

COCKER - On December 17th 1990, at The West London Hospital, to Anne (née Edis) and Martin, a son, James William Peter.

COE - On December 15th 1990, to Linda (née Humphries) and Malcolm, a daughter, Holly Alicia.

CRONK - On December 14th, to Harriet (née Paul) and Paul, a daughter, Katharine Alison, a sister to Oliver and Charlotte.

ERROLL - On December 14th, to Isabelle and Merlin, a son.

FARR - On December 13th 1990, to Anna (née Tomforde) and Michael, a daughter, Emma-Victoria.

FITZGERALD - On December 9th, in Taunton, to Sarah (née Wilson) and Mark, a son, Edmund William, a brother for Rose and John.

FRENCH - On December 15th 1990, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Nicolette (née Evetts) and Nicholas, a son, Jack Alexander, a brother for Thomas.

HANDLEY - On December 8th, to Belinda (née Crosbie) and Derek, a daughter, Rebecca.

LANG - On December 16th, at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, to Lorna (née Graham) and Sean, a daughter, Emily Jane.

PETERS - On December 2nd 1990, to Nicola and Andrew, a daughter, Rebecca Sophie.

ROGERS - On December 17th 1990, to Clare (née Greenshields) and Colin, a daughter, Alexandra Anne.

ROSE - On December 11th 1990, at The Portland Hospital, to Sue (née Clayton) and Marcus, a daughter, Katie Elizabeth.

SALVESEN - On December 15th, at St Thomas' Hospital, to Pamela (née McClure) and Douglas, a son, Oliver Douglas.

VALPY - On December 17th to Fiona and Rupert, a second son, Alastair George Wyatt, in Cape Town, South Africa.

WILSON - On December 13th, to Diana (née Wright) and Colin, twin sons, Thomas James Kinnear and Michael Alexander Kinnear.

ZACHARIA - On December 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Belinda (née Hillman-Eady) and Mahfouz, a daughter, Emma Charlotte.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

ENROLL-SOWTON BARROW - On December 19th 1950, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, SW1, Frederick to Elizabeth.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

PATTERSON GEORGE SMYTH - On December 19th 1930 at St Saviours, Eastbourne, Mark to Peggy - now at Petts Level, near Hastings.

DEATHS

CARLOW-POOLE - On December 18th, peacefully in Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne, Hilary, beloved wife of Hugh and darling mother of Jen, Joanna and Mark. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's Church, Leigh, on Friday December 21st at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the West Dorset Macmillan Service c/o W.S. Brister & Son, Hound St., Sherborne.

CASSETY - On Sunday December 16th, suddenly at home in Manningtree, Gordon Tilney, loved husband of Denise. Much missed by his children and grandchildren. Private cremation.

SEDDON - On December 15th, suddenly, Jack Eglington, C.B., Civil Servant, Under Secretary, Department of the Environment and subsequently Chief Executive of the Severn Trent Water Authority. Much loved and sadly missed.

BERRY - On December 16th, Audrey, sister of Sheila McNaughton and the late L.J.H. (Lenny) Berry and daughter of the late Mr and Mrs L.W. Berry. Dearly loved sister and aunt. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Grayswood, on Friday December 21st at 1400, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only to G.M. Luff & Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey. Donations if desired to King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst.

DALTON - On December 17th 1990, suddenly at home, James Edgar Harmer, of Lynfold, Chislehurst, aged 90, only son of the late James Harmer and Louise Dalton and much loved brother, uncle and great-uncle. Funeral at St Nicholas Parish Church, Chislehurst, on Friday December 28th at 11 am. Flowers to the church or by 9.30 am to W. Uden & Sons, 64 High Street, Sidcup, Kent.

DENNIS - On December 17th 1990, peacefully at Ipswich, Hubert Ronald Dennis, B.Mett., B.S.C., born January 23rd 1899, master of Rutlish school 1922-1964, a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Mary le Tower Church, Ipswich, on Monday December 24th at 11 am. Family flowers only.

DIXON - On December 17th, peacefully, Kendal Cartwright, Professor Emeritus of Cellular Pathology, Cambridge, of King's College, Cambridge, beloved of Anne and family. Funeral immediate family only. Memorial Service later. Please, no flowers but donations may be made to Denbigh Ward Fund, Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge.

ELLERTON - On December 16th, Anthony, peacefully in his sleep, after a courageous struggle against emphysema and other ills. Greatly loved by Jennifer, by the Russell family and by friends throughout the world.

FERRIER - On December 5th, Warren Philip, O.B.E., peacefully in Switzerland. Beloved husband of Claire, father of Nathalie and Werner and grandfather of Raphaela. Memorial Service to be announced later.

FREESTONE - On December 14th, suddenly, Brian Freestone, aged 74, dearly loved husband of Mabelle and much loved father and grandfather. Cremation at Eastbourne Crematorium on January 2nd at 1 pm.

GLASSPOOL - On December 17th 1990, in Sevenoaks, Molly Kathleen (née Cilio), widow of Frederick Frank Glasspool. Memorial Service 12 noon, Friday December 21st St Katharine's Church, Knockholt. Family flowers only.

HARMON DE CLARE - On December 16th, suddenly at his Carshalton, Surrey residence, Robert Anthony, beloved husband of Mary and much loved father of Brian, Robert, Timothy and John. Remains will travel to Ireland where a service will be held at 7 pm on Friday December 21st at Ardfert Church, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Funeral Mass follows on Saturday December 22nd at 12 noon.

HILL - On December 12th, Daphne (née Gompertz), suddenly and peacefully at Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest. Dearly loved mother of Valerie and grandmother to Ben, Joaly, Alexia and Louise and companion to Elisabeth de Guise at 113 Nun Street, St Davids, Dyfed. Donations, if wished, to Father Cullen, St Non's Retreat, St Davids, Dyfed.

HOLT - On December 17th, peacefully at home, George Palmer Holt, of Abercelyn, Llanycil, Bala, aged 80. Funeral arrangements completely private and no memorial service at his particular request.

JOHNSTONE - On Friday December 14th 1990, Robert Hans Johnstone, F.R.I.C.S., suddenly in Helmsley, Yorkshire. Darling husband of Pat and much loved father of Hugh and Vicky. Funeral Friday December 21st, 12 noon, All Saints' Parish Church, Helmsley, followed by cremation at Woodlands Crematorium, Scarborough at 2 pm. Friends and family welcome at home from 12.30 pm. No flowers but donations, if wished, to the NSPCC c/o National Westminster Bank, Market Place, Helmsley, North Yorkshire.

KETELBEY - On Friday December 14th 1990, at 18 Queens Gardens, St Andrews, Caroline Doris Mabie, in her 96th year. Formerly of the University of St Andrews. Interment has already taken place at her own request.

LANE - On December 7th, at home in Nairobi after a long illness, Joan Patricia, 'Patsy' (née Webb), dearly beloved wife of Ian, mother of Michael, Elizabeth, Christopher and Sandra.

LENG - On Sunday December 16th, peacefully at home, Janet Eleanor Leng M.D., F.F.A., R.C.S. (Eng.), of 36 Leonard Court, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NN, youngest daughter of the late Mr & Mrs William C. Leng, of Newport on Tay, Fife. Funeral Service at Vicarsford Cemetery, Newport on Tay, Fife, on Saturday December 29th at 2.30 pm.

LISTER - On December 14th 1990, Martin Douglas Bathurst, Colonel Royal Tank Regiment, loving husband of Peggy, of Seaview, I.O.W. Funeral Thursday December 20th 1990 at St Peter's, Seaview at 12.30 pm. No flowers. Donations if desired to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Little Close, Lower Icknield Way, Lewknor, nr. Oxford.

LOUSADA - On December 16th, peacefully at Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Hugo, aged 84. Beloved husband of Sheila and father of Tony. Funeral private. A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday January 22nd 1991 at the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, but donations to Imperial Cancer Research or R.S.P.C.A. c/o Barclays Bank, 16 High Street, Harpenden, Herts.

MAASS - On December 18th, peacefully, Margit, aged 88 years. Cremation on Friday December 21st, Mortlake Crematorium 3.30 pm. All enquiries to (081) 891-5130.

McLAREN - On December 14th, suddenly, Patrick, aged 27. Dearly loved son of Nancy and Martin and brother of Richard. Funeral Service at St Marylebone Parish Church (opposite York Gate), Marylebone Road, London NW1, on Thursday January 10th 1991 at 3 pm, followed by burial at Combe. Family flowers only please, but donations if wished to St Marylebone Church and Healing Centre Appeal (address as above). All friends welcome at his funeral as there will be no memorial service.

REDGATE - On December 17th 1990, peacefully at home, Dr. John Wheeldon, much loved father of Caroline, Paul and John and grandfather of Jack and Loveday. Funeral Service at Truro Crematorium at 2 pm on Thursday December 20th. Flowers to Parkins, St Clement Street, Truro.

SHARP - On December 13th 1990, at Arundel Hospital, Brigadier Mainwaring Cato Ensor Sharp CBE, aged 93 years, of Walberton, beloved husband of Betty. Private cremation, family flowers only. If desired donations to Leinster Regiment Memorial Fund, Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY. Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Walberton, to be announced. All enquiries to F.A Holland & Son, Terminus Rd, Littlehampton, tel: (0903) 713939.

SMITH - On December 17th, peacefully in hospital, Arthur George, aged 66 years, of Bredon, nr. Tewkesbury. Dearly loved husband of Pam, much loved father to Christopher and Michael. Funeral Service at St Giles Church, Bredon, on Thursday December 20th at 11.30 am. Floral tributes may be sent to B. Sweet & Sons, Oldbury Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5LZ.

STIRLING - On December 16th, peacefully, aged 80, Christian, sister of the late William Stirling. Funeral at St John the Baptist, Pebmarsh, 2.15 pm Friday December 21st.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

KERENSKY - The Funeral Service will be at the Russian Orthodox Church-in-Exile, 14 St Dunstans Road, W6, on Friday December 21st at 11am.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GLADWYN - There will be a Memorial Concert for Cynthia Gladwyn on February 27th at St John's Smith Square at 6.30 pm.

WILLIAMS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Dr. Denis Williams CBE, FRCP, will be held at the City Church of St Andrew by the Wardrobe, *Queen Victoria Street, EC4*, on Friday January 11th 1991 at 12 noon.

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone.

For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, 4pm Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday for Monday's paper.

071 481 4000

DECEMBER 19 ON THIS DAY 1871

The Prince of Wales had been ill with typhus for the past month, and the seriousness of his illness evoked feelings which showed how popular the heir to the throne and his wife Alexandra were with the people.

THE PRINCE OF WALES

(From the *Court Circular*)
MONDAY
SANDRINGHAM, DEC. 18, 9 A.M.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has passed the day quietly.

WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.
WILLIAM GULL, M.D.
JOHN LOWE, M.D.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

The condition in which the Prince now lies may be likened to that of the shipwrecked-mariner who has been cast ashore by a wave just as he was sinking, after a long and terrible battle, beneath the roar of waters, and who, prone on the beach, is beyond risk of drowning indeed, but who needs, nevertheless, much and long time and care to enable him to "come to". The simile fails in one point. Grant to native force of constitution, or to strength of tissues, to stamina, or whatever it may be called, its full share in the successful issue of the conflict, yet we may be sure that had the Prince been left to struggle with his enemy as a swimmer with the tide he must have gone down.

We are not alluding to the Power which controls and decides. But among the human or "secondary causes", as they are termed, it must be remembered that human agencies had a large part. The part which was taken in the fray by those on whose words hour after hour, for day after day, millions have been hanging, cannot be ever nicely apportioned or justly set out, but it is not possible to conceive a position more trying to mind and body than that of the physicians who for more than four weeks have been subjected to a stress of anxiety, of physical and mental strain, only to be imagined by those who know and feel how men like these who waited and watched by such a bed appreciated their responsibilities, and were moved by the signs and tokens so familiar to their practised senses.

The hope of the Empire was in their hands as far as human knowledge and resources could place it within the scope of their art. The accessories of a scene in which they were playing parts so grave were of a kind to test every nerve. Outside the walls of Sandringham a nation in agony; inside, a widowed mother and Queen, a wife and Princess, dear to the people, the sight of whose emotions must have been almost as trying as their own cares. The Prince lives, and every day gives us assurance that the great danger is over. But surely those who have undergone trials only inferior to those of the sufferer himself are not to be forgotten.

If the nation rejoices and is thankful, it ought not to forget what it owes to the skill and science, to the devotion and self-sacrifice, in every sense entire and complete, of the physicians. Sir W. Jenner would be the first to extol the exertions of the colleague who has earned from all at Sandringham, what he values probably only second to the approbation of his conscience, the deepest gratitude. In Dr. Gull were combined energy that never tired, watchfulness that never flagged — nursing so tender, ministry so minute, that in his functions he seemed to combine the duties of physician, dresser, dispenser, valet, nurse — now arguing with the sick man in his delirium so softly and pleasantly that the parched lips opened to take the scanty nourishment on which depended the reserves of strength for the deadly fight when all else failed, now lifting the wasted body from bed to bed, now washing the worn frame with vinegar, with ever-ready eye and ear and finger to mark any change and phase, to watch face and heart and pulse, and passing at times 12 or 14 hours at that bedside.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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JONATHAN BEVAN wishes to announce that this year he is sending either blank or illegible Christmas cards, from various postal addresses in the UK and abroad so if you get one you know it's from me.

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

1990/91 Inn of the year

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Romantic 14th Century thatched smugglers inn overlooking quaint picturesque harbour and Lynmouth Bay. Excellent restaurant specialising in local seafood. Christmas Breaks available.
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Devon

Tel: Lynton
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AVAIL Xmas & New Year Kensington & Hampstead serviced apts. Top discounts due to cancellation. 581 481 5094.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

KENNETH PENGELLY Much regrets that owing to failing sight he is unable this year to send Christmas Greetings to all his friends, but wishes them a very Happy Christmas and Successful New Year

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED

CORDON BLEU Cook seeks work for Xmas. Lux establishment or family preferred. 0865 793574

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Guild of Psychotherapists

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting reference PC-297161-A1-CD (L2/R1). Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations (Incorporated). The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft scheme can be seen at 640 Forest Road, London E17 3DZ, or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting reference 3D-212610-A1 LA. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

PASTORAL MEASURE 1983
The Church Commissioners have prepared a draft pastoral scheme providing for a declaration of redundancy in respect of the parish church of the parish of Stratford Saint Andrew (Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese). Copies of the draft scheme may be obtained from the Church Commissioners, 1 Millbank, London, SW1P 3JZ to whom any representations should be sent within 28 days of the publication of this notice.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Retail (London) Ltd
Registered number: 1002493. Nature of business: Construction. Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 7 December 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Banque Arabe Et Internationale D'Investissement. P R Copp & R Hocking. Joint Administrative Receivers. (office holder nos. 1788 and 2333). Address(es): Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA

IN THE MATTER OF
R. and T. AGRICULTURE LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 21st day of January 1990, to send in their full forenames and surname, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, Shirley Jackson, of Begbie Norton and Partners, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, Gray's Inn, London WC1V 6HZ the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be *specified in such notice*, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 13th day of December 1990
Shirley Jackson
Liquidator

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
HANDACRE LIMITED
Registered number: 2146389. Nature of business: Property Investment & Development. Trade classification: 36. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 3 December 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: The Land & Property Trust PLC. Raymond Hocking/Peter Richard Copp. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos 2322/1788). Address: Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA

LEGAL NOTICES

Carand Limited
(Registered Number: 1841240)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:-

1. By written resolutions effective from the 13th December 1990 duly signed and passed by all its members the above named company approved a payment of £113,280 out of the Company's capital (as defined in Sections 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985) in respect of the purchase by the Company of five Ordinary £1 Shares from Mr. C.W. Hailes of 74 Dobson Road, Bolton, Lancashire under Section 162 of the Companies Act 1985.
2. The amount of the permissable capital payment as defined by Sections 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was £113,280.
3. The statutory declaration and auditors report required by Sections 173 and 174 of the Companies Act 1985 both of which are dated 13th December 1990 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office at Ship Canal House King Street, Manchester.
4. Any creditor of the Company may apply to the High Court under Sections 176 of the Companies Act 1985 within the period of five weeks immediately following 13th December 1990 for an Order prohibiting the payment.

Dated 13th December 1990

FOLGATE APPOINTMENTS LIMITED
I, MAURICE RAYMOND DORRINGTON FIPA OF Poppleton and Appleby 4 Charterhouse Square London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 23rd November 1990 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 14th December 1990
M R Dorrington FIPA
Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No 009414 of 1990
IN THE MATTER OF TKI plc
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10th December 1990 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 13th December 1990.
Dated this 17th day of December 1990
Hammond Suddards
3rd DWH/A/KA
Empire House, 10 Piccadilly
BRADFORD BD1 3LR
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
TRG EXTRUSIONS LIMITED
Registered Office: 72 London Road St Albans Herts AL1 1NS
Trading Address: 4 Tewin Court, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1AU

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at 72 London Road, St Albans, Herts on Thursday, 20 December 1990 at 12 noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99-101 of the said Act.

Notice is further given that Mr S L Smith A C.A. of Messrs Mercer and Hole of 72 London Road St Albans, Herts AL1 1NS is a person qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the company and during the period before the day on which the meeting is to be held, will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require, pursuant to Section 98(2) (a) of the said Act.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that for the purpose of voting secured creditors must (unless they surrender their security) lodge at the said registered office of the company before the meeting a statement giving particulars of their security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
By Order of the Board of Directors
P BRAZIER
Director
Dated this 12th day of December 1990

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
TRICUT RUBBER & GASKETS LIMITED
Registered Office: 72 London Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 1NS
Trading Address: 4 Tewin Court, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1AU

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at 72 London Road, St Albans, Herts on Thursday, 20 December 1990 at 2.30 p.m. for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99-101 of the said Act.

Notice is further given that Mr S L Smith A.C.A. of Messrs Mercer and Hole of 72 London Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 1NS is a person qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the company and during the period before the day on which the meeting is to be held, will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require, pursuant to Section 98(2) (a) of the said Act.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that for the purpose of voting secured creditors must (unless they surrender their security) lodge at the said registered office of the company before the meeting a statement giving particulars of their security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
By Order of the Board of Directors
P BRAZIER
Director
Dated this 12th day of December 1990

LEGAL NOTICES

A.H. DAYTON ENGINEERING LIMITED
I, JAMIE TAYLOR FIPA of Poppleton and Appleby 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on 10th December 1990 by the Members and Creditors.
Dated 14th December 1990
J TAYLOR FIPA
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF
DUKECORP LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up are required, on or before the 3 March 1991, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and description, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned David Julian Buchler, of Buchler Phillips & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, the Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
David Julian Buchler
Liquidator
3 December 1990

IN THE MATTER OF
DUKECORP LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on Monday 3 December 1990 I David Julian Buchler of Buchler Phillips & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street London W1X 9DF was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company by the members and creditors.
David Julian Buchler
Dated 4th December 1990

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
and
IN THE MATTER OF
C.P.M. ASSOCIATES LIMITED
TRADING NAME: "Delphus"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 10th January 1991 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 12th day of December 1990
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
COLIN MILNE
DIRECTOR

PEARL PUBLICATIONS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Thursday 20th December 1990 at 2.31 in the afternoon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Mr Peter Lomas and Mr Stephen James Wainwright of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street Chester, M4 1QD are appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioners who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
DATED THIS 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1990
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
S REED (DIRECTOR)

SAVEFLEX LIMITED
Registered number: 1979120. Nature of business: Theatre Owner. Trade Classification: 35. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 29 November 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Standard Chartered Bank. Joint Administrative Receivers John Andrew Talbot and Martin Fishman (office holder nos. ...). Address(es): PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT.

SCENE ON SCREEN LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Thursday 20th December 1990 at 2.30 in the afternoon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Mr Peter Lomas and Mr Stephen James Wainwright of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Chester, M4 1QD are appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioners who will furnish creditors *with such information as they* may reasonably require.
DATED THIS 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1990
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
S REED (DIRECTOR)

SOLTRUE LTD
Registered in England. Number: 1736073. We, MAURICE RAYMOND DORRINGTON FIPA and TERENCE JOHN ROPER FIPA of 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN, hereby give notice that on the 7th day of December 1990 we were appointed JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS of the whole of the property of your Company under the powers contained in a Debenture dated 23rd March 1988. My appointment was made by The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc.
Dated the 10th day of December 1990
M.R. DORRINGTON
T.J. ROPER
Joint Administrative Receivers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Will Power
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and the link with
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- Heart disease
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10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD
REGISTERED CHARITY NO 215199

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Ref.TT, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ. Tel: 071-732 8771

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THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
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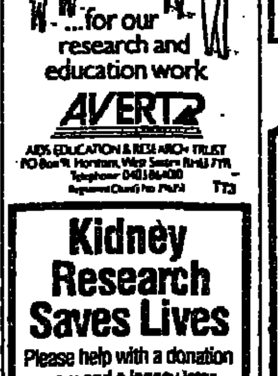

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...for our research and education work

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AIDS EDUCATION & RESEARCH TRUST
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Telephone 0403 864010
Registered Charity No 296254 TT3

TINA ADOPHO -

Can anybody in the Barnet area, North London, Please help me to trace Tina Adopho. Last heard of in Goldbourgh Homecare.

Please Reply to Box No 2332

YOUR WILL

If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.

Enquiries to
The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

Kidney Research Saves Lives

Please help with a donation now and a legacy later

NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH

NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND
Dept.11, 42 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RG
Registered Charity No 252892

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The Samaritans offer a sympathetic ear to thousands of desperate and suicidal people each week.

Leaving money to us in your will could help us continue providing comfort and understanding, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Your donation will keep this vital service going. So please, as a last thought, think of the Samaritans first.

Write to Simon Armson, The Samaritans, Room B, 17 Uxbridge Road, Slough SL1 1SN for further details.

Thank you from the RNLI

It is your support through legacies and voluntary contributions that allows us to meet our daily running costs of £100,000 and provide our lifeboatmen with the boats and equipment they need.

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The Director, Dept DT, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ, or phone (0202) 671133.

NBI

YOUR WILL
can help so many elderly people who have spent their lives caring for others

... and are now in need of help themselves. The NBI helps with accommodation, regular annuities, winter fuel bills and help towards nursing home fees etc.

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Reg Charity 212450 Est 1812

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For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00pm Monday - Thursday
4.00pm Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm Saturday for Monday's paper.
Marriage notices not appearing on the Court & Social Page may also be accepted by telephone.

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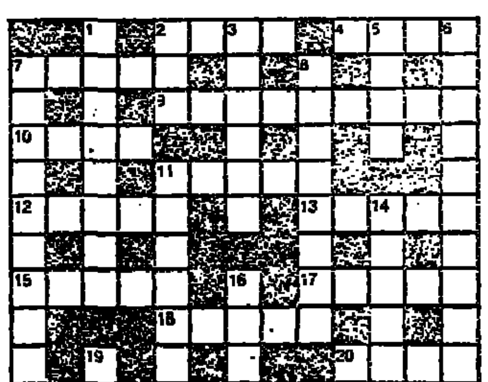


ACROSS
2 Smack (4)
4 Squalid area (4)
7 Finger drum (5)
9 Tiredness (9)
10 Pigeon shelter (4)
11 "Swiss financier" (5)
12 Figure of speech (5)
13 Underground drain (5)
15 Twigs broom (5)
17 Waste Land poet (5)
18 Fit out (5)
20 Display (4)
21 Talk to (9)
23 Roused (5)
24 Breathe deeply (4)
25 Wallop (4)

DOWN
1 Swarmy (8)
2 Browbeat (3)
3 Large wine bottle (6)
5 Told untruth (4)
6 Brilliant move (6,6)
7 Return to fundamentals (4,2,6)
8 Circumvent (8)
11 Shapes, sizes maths (8)
14 Intensely fervent (8)
16 Penalise (6)
19 Adult male deer (4)
22 Banknote pile (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 2361

ACROSS: 1 People 4 Motor 8 In the doldrums 9 Compact 10 Shag 11 Ham 13 Clad 14 Acme 17 Sir 20 Oise 22 Uptight 24 Beyond the pale 25 Teens 26 Advent

DOWN: 1 Prince 2 Optimal 3 Leewards 4 Mode 5 Truth 6 Resign 7 Worth 12 Masthead 15 Migrate 16 Hobbit 18 Rusty 19 Street 21 Style 23 Onus

'Women are too caring to make good surgeons'

The top jobs in hospital medicine are a male preserve. Anthea Gerrie finds out why

NICK ROGERS

Women at the cutting edge of a career scandal: even in obstetrics and gynaecology, they form only 15 per cent of consultants

The increase in NHS consultancy posts announced last Monday may well relieve pressure on junior doctors, but it is unlikely to make much impact on the gender inequality in British hospital medicine. What women doctors want is equal opportunity for training and promotion in an environment that currently permits scandalously few to reach consultant level.

Kate Fussell, who retired last week, was one of just 11 women consultant general surgeons in the NHS in England and Wales — a speciality in which women make up no more than 1 per cent. Even in obstetrics and gynaecology, the proportion of female consultants is less than 15 per cent, and the average across all specialities is 12.5 per cent. Women turn up at the top in significant numbers only in traditionally under-supplied areas such as anaesthetics, radiology and psychogeriatrics, where they form 20-25 per cent of the total.

As a doctor and as the chairman of the National Alliance of Women's Organisations, Miss Fussell is convinced this inequality matters deeply, particularly to the patients. "There are many women who would prefer to consult another woman, especially when it comes to the traumatic issue of breast surgery. But surgery is one of the last bastions of macho medicine, and the prejudice which was rife when I was struggling to the top 20 years ago has not yet been fully eradicated."

Could it be that women are not physically equipped to be surgeons? That is the view of Frank Ellis, a consultant general surgeon at Guy's hospital, one of several London teaching hospitals which refused to admit women students until 1947, when the Labour government threatened to revoke their grants.

"Women don't have the stamina for it," he says. "They are too caring to make good surgeons. When it comes to making life or death decisions, women take all the peripherals on board and ultimately get their knickers in a twist. They also lack the aggression to harness the necessary resources in a competitive environment — theatre time, for example. And surgery is no place for a career break — frankly, you get rusty when you have been gone more than three months."

While Mr Ellis's views may be echoed by male colleagues in surgery, they are angrily rejected by the Medical Women's Federation, whose president, Dr Elizabeth Shaw, says: "Women have more stamina than men. And they have dexterous fingers which equip them to be fine surgeons.

"The surgeon who thinks there is no room for women in an operating theatre is the kind who doesn't believe in talking to his patients. We know that what the patients want is more sensitivity at the bedside: women may well be more caring than men, but it is a plus, not a minus."

Medical feminists are quick to quote Dr Margaret Gilchick as a shining example of what women can bring to surgery. A super-efficient worker, she is one of very few consultants with no waiting list. A colleague at St Charles hospital, west London, says: "She's a dynamo; her lunch hour consists of walking with a sandwich from one appointment to the next, but she gets through the list.

"She also has four children that she manages to see enough of. She has always been more concerned with getting the work done than spending time on politics or polishing up her image."

Dr Gilchick had her children in rapid succession after achieving consultancy status — the only way a woman can hope to get on in medicine, says Dr Shaw. "Junior doctors work up to 90 hours a week, which makes it virtually impossible to juggle a family, and part-timers find it exceedingly hard to get the training to make it to consultant.

"The average age of appointment is 37 — and that is among doctors who have been going at it full-time for up to 15 years. Women doctors know it is inadvisable to wait so long before starting a family, so many opt for clinical assistant jobs, which throw them off the career path."

The health department has made efforts to encourage women doctors to stay on the promotion ladder by setting aside a number of part-time registrar posts for doctors with domestic commitments, but the theoretical right to these jobs, and getting them in practice, are two different things, as Dr Julie Parker discovered.

"The regional health authority has the money — but it is up to the districts within the region to apply for their share. They are often unwilling to do so, and as an unemployed woman at home with a baby you can feel powerless to press your case. It often comes down to getting sympathetic male colleagues to lobby on your behalf."

Dr Parker is one of four pairs of women working in job-share consultancies in psychiatry around the country, which she says has considerable political advantages over simply working as a part-time consultant.

"The part-timer has a hard time getting taken seriously — she is considered a slightly jokey extra who often gets marginalised and excluded from strategy and policy decisions, something the two of us as a team manage to avoid." The shared psychiatric consultancy at Barrow hospital, near Bristol, means Dr Parker works a 30-hour week, compared with 50 hours or more as a full-timer.

Dr Shaw says although job-sharing women are unlikely to get much of a hearing in areas such as surgery, an increase in the number of consultancy posts could help draw women to the top if they were scattered evenly among the specialities. "But if the new consultancies are concentrated in surgery and general medicine — the areas of greatest inequality and deepest entrenchment of attitudes — it won't help them much."

What has helped most of all, she says, is that "many of the old-timers now have daughters practising medicine, and that is slowly causing a shift in their attitudes". The slow emergence of "new men" in the ranks is also welcome. "Many of the younger consultants are starting to refuse to work at night, when management meetings traditionally start. They are insisting on spending more time with their families — and their stance will benefit the women who join the club."

All stressed out and ready to play

The shops are full of gimmicky gadgets to relieve frustration — but is the joke on us?

As the recession bites into retailers' Christmas profits, one non-traditional gift area is booming. Virtually every department store and gift shop in the country has a display of stocking fillers for the stress-obsessed, which range from the simple to the simply awful.

These by-products of a stressed-out society include Tearapart bosses (or traffic wardens and other hate figures), who can be dismembered with the satisfying sound of ripping Velcro (£14.99): "When you're stressed out to the max, take out your frustrations by ripping the head, arms and legs off this beady-eyed bozo", the box prescribes. There are Squeeze Relief faces which can be contorted as "a fun and harmless way to get relief from frustration, agitation, irritation and aggravation" (£4.95). Electronic screaming balls (£6.50) emit a hollow howl like a soul in torment when touched ("a prescription for stress ... for the relief of your paranoid delusions"). The Wham-It inflatable punching bag costs £8.95, the Frustration Brick, which can be hurled across a room without causing any harm, is just £2.99, and the Stress Release Baseball, which emits the sound of breaking glass when thrown, is £9.95.

The Whacko (£24.95) is a furry cockroach that will cringe quietly on your desk until you hammer it on the head, when it squeals and runs about. Poor Mr X (£9.95) cries "Oh, oh, forgive me please" when you hit him on the head with a hammer. The Freud Talking Pillow (£14.95) promises: "Press me to relieve your worry so I can worry and fuss out loud!" Smooshables (£4.99) come in the shape of mothers-in-law, bosses, and so on, and can be squeezed almost out of recognition, and the Sammy Slam Me Stressometer (£19.99) with "thump plunger" and bell is exactly how it sounds.

The Buzzle Stress-Tester (£7.95) is an updated desk version of the old steady-hand tests, and can be used in conjunction with various "biofeedback" gadgets such as Biodots, adhesive dots which stick to the fingers and supposedly show you how relaxed you are by measuring circulation. Biodots cost £3.75 for 25 from Stresswise, PO Box 5, Congleton, Cheshire.

Stress experts have mixed feelings about the devices. Dr Malcolm Carruthers is a stress specialist who works at the Maudsley hospital in south London as well as in Harley Street, where he runs the Positive Health Centre and teaches autogenic training, a form of relaxation therapy. He has himself been involved, with a manufacturer called Pulse-Time Products, in the development of a wrist-watch which will be able to measure pulse and blood pressure, and he envisages the day when "we can have this facility built into the steering wheel of a car so that an audible alarm goes off as a warning to pull over and calm down, when your pulse or blood pressure gets dangerously high".

He believes anything that helps to let off steam is a good idea. "When I teach autogenic training I teach people how to have a proper temper tantrum and how to cry, and the only bad thing is that some of these devices are making the noises the stressed person should be making himself in order to let off steam."

The psychologist Dr David Lewis, an industry consultant on stress, is more sceptical. "Some of these stress toys seem to me rather sadistic things. I believe anger out is as bad as anger in, and that toys which encourage hostility are not healthy."

Professor Cary Cooper of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, the author of many books on stress, says we should be asking not what these anti-stress devices can do for us, but what can be done about a society which has spawned them. "The growth industry in these items is telling us something about the times we live in," he says.

If we are worried about a loved one's stress levels, should we be popping at least one of the above into his or her stocking? "There's a funny side to these executive toys, but there's a serious hidden message if you're given one," Professor Cooper says. "It's 'do you realise that this is the way I perceive you and others perceive you?'. So take note. If someone gives you a punchbag, they are showing you that they perceive you to be aggressive — and that's the first-stage symptom of stress."

But well-meaning buyers should beware, Professor Cooper says. "The thing about these toys is that too many of them are achievement orientated — even if it's only trying to get a spot to turn green. They could cause even more stress in the competitive personalities they are meant to calm."

VICTORIA MCKEE

Agony aunt to children in care

A magazine offering help to unhappy youngsters is fighting for survival

ABOUT 85,000 youngsters, from babies to 19-year-olds, are in care in the United Kingdom. Some even have children of their own. They are looked after by 133 different local authorities, but while many get top quality care, some suffer indifference, neglect and even abuse.

Reaching out to these children and telling them their rights has become the mission of a social worker, Tory Laughland. Her magazine *Who Cares?*, distributed via local authorities, preaches self-help in dealing with depression, anger or rejection.

An Oxford graduate in French, Mrs Laughland began her career as a film script reader, but then trained as a social worker at the London School of Economics. Later, working for Westminster council, she realised the enormity of the social worker's task. "I became dismayed by my inability to look after the young people who had been taken into care, in the way that a good parent could and should," she says.

Mrs Laughland decided to look at the problems facing children in care, and in 1979 she organised an open day at Westminster City Hall. The children who came said they wanted more information about their rights, and this led her to start the magazine.

GEOFF DOWEN

Readers' rights: Tory Laughland preaches self-help

She talked to a designer, Kevin Walker, then working for *Eagle* comic, who advised her to commission a photo story with children in care as her models. He also offered to design the magazine and take the photographs, which he still does.

The six-page photo story remains the heart of *Who Cares?*. The theme of the story is decided by a committee of children, themselves in care, and deals with subjects such as running away, being moved from home to home, and sex abuse. The "Did You Know?" column deals with rights and benefits, and the letters column gives moving evidence of the plight of some of its readers. After each letter the editor adds a reply, ending "... we'd like you to keep in touch in case we can help".

In 1987 the magazine moved into the offices of the National Children's Bureau in Islington, north London, but as it gathered momentum it became more costly, and was threatened with closure.

Then, just when the project seemed doomed, through the charity Retired Executives Action Clearing House Mrs Laughland found Nigel French, who runs his own marketing company.

MR FRENCH has drawn up plans to put the magazine on a proper business footing, and also to start a telephone helpline for children in care (the magazine already gets hundreds of calls from adults and children seeking advice).

Who Cares? sells 8,000 copies every quarter, but the new proposals would cost £125,000 a year. However, Mrs Laughland and Mr French are determined to raise the money so the magazine can continue to bring comfort to young people in care.

GERALDINE RANSON

● *Who Cares?, c/o National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE (071-278 9441).*

& BRIEFLY

Christmas crackers

THERE are still five shopping days until Christmas and the retail slump means bargains galore in popular gift items such as jewellery, cameras and electrical equipment. The big retailers often add incentives such as holiday vouchers (from Currys on certain items), or gift certificates (Ratners gives a £50 one for purchases of £150 or more). Stores such as Selfridges and Debenhams have even slashed toy prices on popular lines such as Lego, Barbie and Ghostbusters.

Bubbly by post

THERE is still time to send an impressive gift pack of champagne and Scottish smoked salmon from DeLahaye Champagnes, the company which supplies the Ritz and many other top hotels and is promised for orders placed by tomorrow and pack prices start at £19.91 for half a bottle of non-vintage champagne and half a pound of sliced Clearwater smoked salmon. For details contact DeLahaye Champagnes, 3 Hagley Hall Mews, Hagley, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 9LQ (0562 886913).

Glass class

CHRISTMAS craft kits will pale into insignificance alongide the opportunity to make genuine stained glass in a workshop supervised by master craftsmen. Beginning in January, Stained Glass Supplies will be holding classes in leadlights, glass appliqué techniques and stained glass crafting, with special lectures and design workshops. An introduction day for complete beginners costs £35, an intermediate leadlight class £50 for three consecutive Saturdays from February 16, and other courses start in January. Details from Stained Glass Supplies, 41-49 Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, London E2 8AD (071-729 5661).

Heart video

IF ANYONE in your family is recovering from a heart attack or heart surgery, a helpful stocking filler could be a new video produced by the British Heart Foundation. Called *Better than Before: Life after Heart Surgery*, the 15-minute video is supported with case studies of patients and covers psychological and physical problems which may be encountered, as well as offering advice for a healthier future. It is available free of charge, although a donation of £5 to Street, London W1H 4DH, telephone 071-935 0185) would be appreciated.

Kid's stuff

WHY fight your way into the department stores when a swift telephone call to a specialist children's shop such as Dragons of Walton Street in London (071-589 3795) can still secure the perfect, personalised present for the children on your list. Dragons, which has furnished several royal nurseries, offers everything from painted personalised hairbrushes (real bristle, of course, at £25.50) to rush-seated chairs decorated with Beatrix Potter characters or soldiers (£55.20-£57.50). Hand-painted desks (from £150 to £800) can also be personalised. Many cheaper gifts such as Dragon beanbags (£12.75) and stocking-fillers such as bathplugs (£5.75) are still available. Postage and delivery by arrangement.

هكذا من الأصل

GALLERIES: WALES

A happy and glorious chance for the public

Paintings from the royal collection at Windsor Castle, on show in Cardiff, reviewed by Andrew Gibbon Williams

Not even the most ardent monarchist could extol the present reign as a golden age for royal artistic patronage. Where the Queen has excelled, however, is in the accessibility she has generously allowed to the works in the collections in her possession. For those who suspect that the best wine of our great royal collections is reserved for private consumption, then a visit to the National Museum of Wales is required. On show is a collection of 60 pictures, most of which hang in the Grand Corridor at Windsor Castle and have been sent on holiday while renovations take place there. These are the works the coach-parties do not get to see.

The presence of Queen Victoria's least favourite uncle, George IV, looms large. Not only does he feature from cradle to horseback, but he also commissioned or purchased many of the pictures. Finally, once his mentally unsound but more respectable father departed the scene, he had Wyatville design the neo-Gothic Grand Corridor (if every other grand house in England had a long gallery, why should not Windsor?) and summoned the sculptor Chantrey and his Scottish painter Wilkie to advise on the hanging.

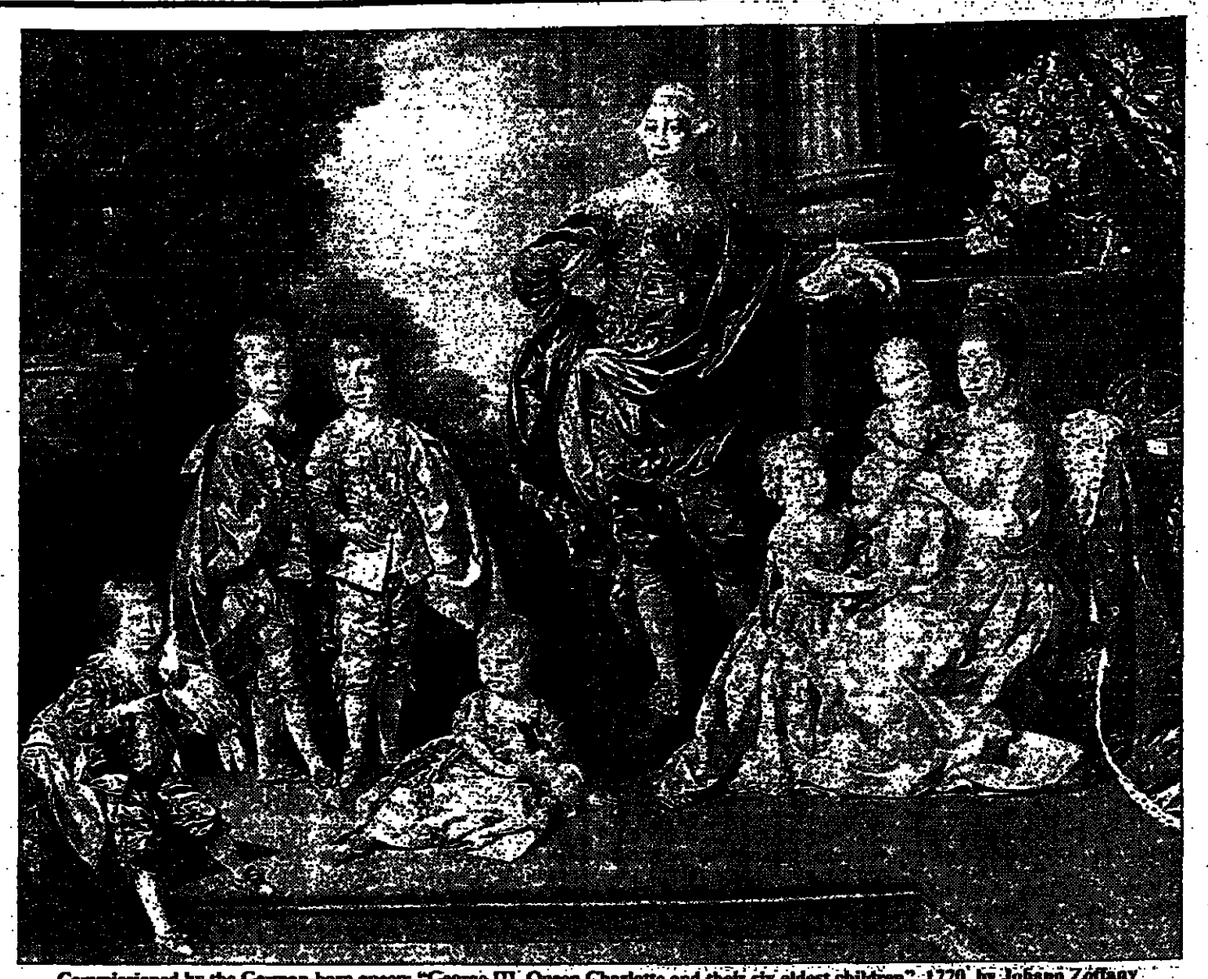
If the mark left by George III on the royal collections is less striking than that of his errant elder son, it is, nevertheless, equally indelible. His acquisition in 1762 of the remarkable collection assembled by Consul Smith in Venice ensured Canaletto's high-standing in England. There are several wonderful views here: they would certainly make photographs unnecessary for reconstruction purposes, were the pessimists to be proved right and La Serenissima to sink into her lagoon. But there are also views of Roman triumphal arches and magnificent riverscapes of the Thames, which serve as reminders that Canaletto's subjects were not exclusively Venetian.

Although George III would brook no official painter but the Scot, Allan Ramsay, his German-born queen, Charlotte, patronised her countryman Johann Zoffany. And it is Zoffany's finely crafted conversation pieces, rather than in the portraits by his more feted English contemporaries Reynolds and Gainsborough, that the image of formal domesticity which our present royal family has so steadfastly cultivated, first appears.

There are dogs and children everywhere. In one picture the infant Prince of Wales (Prinny's passion for dressing up obviously started early) is got up as Telemachus, his brother as a Turk, and both little boys, with dog, cling to their mother's fabulously painted satin skirts. In another, the unescorted princes play with a small spaniel against a backdrop of Van Dycks.

The 17th-century master's double portrait of Charles I's heir and brother is an intentional dynastic prop. Indeed there is ample evidence of the Hanoverians' sense of insecurity. The royal children not only fondle pets and toys but ostentiously sport the great British orders of the Garter, Bath and Thistle. Zoffany's most formal full family group is, in fact, a remake in period costume of a Van Dyck *treatment of the martyr king and* his family; Horace Walpole thought it ridiculous.

Both Gainsborough and Lawrence are well represented, the former unfortunately by a group which substantiates his not wholly deserved reputation as a prettifier and flatterer. There can be few more glamorous depictions of 18th-century femininity than that in "George III and His Three Eldest Daughters" – all frills, flounces and feathery brushwork. Doubtless, the subjects were well-pleased, but the modern viewer longs for a dash of Goya's frankness, which might have infused the sweet blandness of their expressions with some character.



Commissioned by the German-born queen: "George III, Queen Charlotte and their six eldest children", 1770, by Johann Zoffany

Lawrence is an altogether heartier, more robust painter, perfectly attuned to the down-to-earth personality of his greatest patron, George IV. It is a dazzling technique which, like Raeburn's, which he admired, can be employed as tellingly on paunchy, masculine old age, as on blushing, female youth.

The Prince Regent liked to have his favourites around him. Lord Thurlow, who helped relieve him of his unprepossessing wife, sits four-square, emanating legal authority. The Duke of Wellington's brother, Richard Wellesley, appears to fit perfectly the description of him by the king: "A Spanish grandee grafted on an Irish potato". No English painter has ever bettered Lawrence's expertise in rendering textures.

Then there are the equestrian pictures of Stubbs, with which the collection is rich. It was George IV who made racing the sport of kings. As Prince of Wales, not surprisingly, he commissioned the finest animal painter in the land to commemorate his favourites: an intriguing pre-echo of our current royal family's equine enthusiasms, although they do not appear to share their predecessor's commissioning zeal.

Although, for security reasons, the customary cordon is in place at Cardiff, preventing really close examination of the pictures, the opportunity to see these royal and national treasures should not lightly be missed.

The Royal Collection: Paintings from Windsor Castle is at the National Museum of Wales (0222 397951) until February 24.

VIOLIN COMPETITION: HELSINKI

Winter oddities

The Sibelius International Violin Competition happens at an inhospitable time of year, when Helsinki sees little real daylight and when winds from the east chill the marrow of the bones. But though the prizes on offer are modest, it maintains its prestige in a paradoxical world where activity has become so intense that competitions have becomes competitors for the best candidates but where the importance accorded to winning and losing is ridiculously inflated.

Partly that prestige has something to do with the Sibelius Competition's rarity value, for the competition still happens only once every five years. Within Finland, of course, it enjoys unremitting media attention. Substantial newspaper articles appear every day, and television crews roam the spacious, elegant foyer of Finlandia Hall in search of a comment from the public.

Not all of the finalists demonstrated the technical excellence expected in the two concertos each had to play – the Sibelius, and one chosen from a short, rather conservative list – with the efficient Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and the rather less reliable Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. For instance, a place was presumably given to the 20-year-old Chinese violinist, Jin Hui, only to offer him experience. Before his performance of the Sibelius, he had never previously played with an orchestra. To make him do so with only 75 minutes of rehearsal was to court the disaster that eventually occurred, and it was greatly to his credit that he returned later in the week and gave a more solid, though often curiously inflected, reading of the Tchaikovsky.

The leader of the pack turned out to be the 29-year-old Romanian, Cristina Anghelescu, who was given second prize. The first prize was not awarded: this is an increasingly common phenomenon again, aimed at maintaining a competition's kudos. Anghelescu certainly deserved her high ranking; there was a passion about her style which many other finalists lacked, and the sound had a mature richness though her tone-colours were varied and she phrased imaginatively.

Crucially, her technique enabled her to negotiate those telling virtuoso passages in the finale of the Sibelius Concerto more confidently and accurately than many. The prize for the best performance of the Sibelius could well have gone to her. Instead, it was also not awarded.

I was not in Helsinki for the first two stages of the competition, but to my mind it was little short of scandalous that the 20-year-old Soviet violinist Arkadi Gutnikov was placed no higher than seventh. By choosing as his optional work the Tchaikovsky Concerto, he should have lost one or two points, but three other finalists, Anghelescu included, also went for this staggeringly original option. Three more opted for the Brahms Concerto, a work whose substance helps it survive such repetition. Of all the finalists, it was Gutnikov who showed the best combination of consistency, technical reliability, quality of sound and sheer imagination.

The placing of Gutnikov lower than the Icelandic violinist Sigrún Edvaldsdóttir and the Japanese Akiko Tanaka, joint third prize-winners, seemed to me ridiculous. Edvaldsdóttir experienced some problems with intonation and quality of sound in both of her concertos, and although Tanaka played with near-immaculate polish, her phrasing was unimaginatively smooth, her personality bland. In her Tchaikovsky it was as if her first aim were not to offend the jury by daring to do anything.

Fourth place went to a 16-year-old Finn, Jaakko Kuusisto, who still has some work to do on the power and richness of his sound but who exudes individuality and sound musicianship. He showed a remarkable structural grasp in the Brahms concerto. His placing was popular with the audience, but it seemed harsh on the Pole, Piotr Milewski, who had all the assets of Kuusisto except extreme youth (he is already 31), and the additional benefits of a maturer sound, a greater certainty of intent and the courage to play Prokofiev – the First Concerto – rather than Brahms or Tchaikovsky.

Another Finn, Pekka Kauppinen, was the dark horse of the finals. He acquitted himself well enough, though his rather dour performances seemed to betray a touch of the understandable malaise which affects this country at this time of year.

STEPHEN PETTITT

CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Not many people wanted to know that

Last-minute presents? Chris Peachment lists ideas for the desperate

Many years ago, a man confided in me that he had never managed to finish a book in his life. Not unusual in a country where a substantial percentage of households never buy a single book from one year to the next; and where by far the largest amount of book-buying is indulgence in the likes of the latest Wilbur Smith at Gatwick airport. This man, however, was the head of a publishing company. He had realised early in life that a convenient marriage can spare a man years of honest labour. "Is that why" I asked him, "most of the books you publish are books of lists?" His catalogue was composed of books which tell you what to do with the children at weekends, or quantify great travel catastrophes. "They are easy to write," he replied, airily, "and they sell." I am sure I could telephone each publisher of the books below and get the same reply. With the added rider, "especially at Christmas".

Smallest of the bunch, weighing in at a mere 57 pages, fine for the smallest stocking, is *Jewish Proverbs* (Robert Hale, £5.95), uncredited to any compiler but with illustrations by Brenda Rae Uno. You will be pleased to know that "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" and that "A man surrounded by dwarfs looks like a giant". My own favourite is "So many hymns – and so few noodles". I tried that one out on a couple of Jewish friends; they were none the wiser. "An owl in a sack bothers no man" is not in here. But it won a literary competition some years ago for the most fatuous proverb.

The Eighties, according to the introduction to *Nigel Dempster's Address Book* (Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £15), "unleashed the unscrupulous on the unsuspecting". I'll say it did. This book is 15 quid, and there's not a single address in it. All the less worthwhile socialites who populate the daily round of the average diarist are in here, but not even a telephone number is appended to each entry. It was pleasant to learn that Sir Kingsley Amis took several days to find his second wife's farewell note. But everybody knows half a dozen better stories about the man. Jeffrey Archer puts his own worth at £25 million, which does raise the old concern about the difference between price and worth. Jonathan Routh could only successfully woo Olga Deterding after he had given her a bath in Dettol. And she choked to death on a piece of steak at midnight, New Year's Eve 1978. I wish I could remember all this sort of stuff: just the thing to break the ice at parties.

In the wake of the recent revelations of her husband's infidelity, Jilly Cooper may well be regretting the inclusion of her item in *Best Dog Stories*, edited by Gerald Durrell (Michael O'Mara, £10.95). It dwells at some length on dogs' uncanny ability at sensing the return of their master, whatever the time of day. Bad luck on the pooches that they lack an opposable thumb, and cannot therefore lurk behind the door with a rolling pin. Among others in this collection is Colette, with a story entitled *The Bitch*.

Boardroom wit is not the saltiest in the world, as *The Executive's Quotation Book*, edited by James Charlton (Robert Hale, £4.95) makes clear. What about William Simon's "The nation should have a tax system which looks like someone designed it on purpose"? Or Anne McDonnell Ford's "It's so American to start your own business"? Penetrating stuff, eh? There are one or two gloatings from the more inhuman sort of millionaire, which make Jacobins of us all. Especially tumbril-provoking was J. Paul Getty's "If you can count your money, you don't have a billion dollars".

Altogether more browsable is Douglas Adams's and John Lloyd's *The Deeper Meaning of Liff* (Pan, £9.99). This, and I quote, is a dictionary of things that there aren't any words for yet. Of the five different degrees of annoyance caused by the sort of twit who performs drum solos on his knee, I don't think *Dattock* quite conveys the true, nerdy awfulness. Nor is *Ravenna* quite the right word for a workman's bottom cleavage, because of the association conjured up by the beautiful city of Ravenna and the equally beautiful ballet dancer, Ravenna Tucker. But *Flums* will do nicely for women who only talk to each other at parties. *Gweek* is just right for a coathanger recycled as a car aerial. *Gonnabarn*, however, is not an afternoon wasted watching an old movie on television. That is called *Freelancing*.

Honourable Insults: A century of political insult, compiled by Greg Knight MP (Robson, £10.95), reveals that when it comes to insult, MPs are unconstrained by the social nicety which afflicts the rest of the population. The Victorian Irish MP, Daniel O'Connell, commenting on Lord Alvanley "he is a bloated buffoon" will not win prizes in the Dead Sheep Stakes. But the backbencher who suggested that "Kenneth Baker does not have a haircut; he goes for an oil change" should win an award from public funds. And Nance Garner's comment to the then vice-president Lyndon Johnson "The Vice-Presidency isn't worth a pitcher of spit" prices that post rather high. This book acknowledges help from "Sir John Stradling-Thomas MP and the Lord Cocks". If you'll believe that, sir, you'll believe anything.

A Fenland Christmas, compiled by Chris Carling (Alan Sutton, £7.50) is just the thing for those grinding their teeth at the prospect of another round of Christmas hostilities. Each visit to this terrible, watery place confirms my suspicion that centuries of inbreeding have produced a local population bent on homicide, abuse and rheumatism. The essays and poems are studded with pictures showing downtrodden people peering through the murk at a countryside apparently painted by one of Holland's more depressive landscapists. Nothing like a spell of Fendoom for blowing away Christmas excess.

Finally, *Best Behaviour: The Tatler Book of Alternative Etiquette*, by Mary Killen (Century, £9.99), is a joy to those who turn first to her page in that increasingly humourless magazine. *Ravenna* pops out here again, in the shape of a bewildered letter from a Japanese lady, recently arrived in London, who cannot understand why the British workmen redecorating her house keep showing her their bottom cleavage. The explanation is a model of courtesy and gentle cultural correction. Elsewhere, Killen is more wiggy. I especially liked the advice, for a man forced to attend a Michael Tippett opera, on which stereo headphones caused least offence to other members of the audience. Many an arts editor might admit to the problem.

That's enough lists. They do not add much to the nation's gaiety, but they keep publishers solvent and earn their place on a nail in the outside loo.

BRIEFING

Visionaries rewarded

LONDON Weekend Television has announced the winners of its "Plays on Stage" scheme, which provides funds for theatre companies to mount new productions on the basis of proposals they submit. They are: the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, for a staging of *The Bondagers* by Sue Glover; the Gate Theatre Club, for *Damned for Despair* by the 17th-century Spanish playwright Tirso de Molina (the same company has just mounted another of Molina's plays, *Don Gil of the Green Breeches*, reviewed in these pages yesterday); and the Northumberland Theatre Company, for *These Things do Happen* by Stewart Henson. The companies are to receive £18,000, £16,000 and £14,000 respectively.

Buckets of blood

Playing its 1,000th performance tonight: *Blood Brothers*, the Willy Russell musical set in Liverpool and charting the lives of twins separated at birth. In eight years the piece has crossed three stages. It began at the Liverpool Playhouse, transferred to the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, and has been playing at the Albery since 1988.

Turner scrutinised

TWO new Turner Scholars have been appointed by the Tate Gallery, the home of 300 Turner oils and more than 20,000 of his drawings and watercolours. Maurice Davies will investigate Turner's use of perspective [illegible] in the "Perspective" lectures he gave at the Royal Academy between 1811 and 1828, and Dr Ian Piggott will study the vignette engravings based on Turner and used to illustrate literature. Sponsorship of the Turner scholarships, which were established in 1988, comes from Volkswagon. The work of both scholars is expected, in time, to lead to exhibitions and catalogues.

Last chance . . .

Cosi fan tutte is unlikely to return to English National Opera again in its present production. So tonight and Friday are the last chances to see this sun-drenched 18th-century comedy of manners at the Coliseum (7pm; 071-836-3161). Lesley Garrett is a predictably cheeky Despina, deceived, together with the quartet of lovers, by Andrew Shore's outstanding [illegible]

Authentic thrills in the dark

THEATRE

Gaslight
Greenwich

GOOD, scary evenings are hard to find nowadays, but Annie Castledine has concocted a pretty formidable one. From the start, her revival of Patrick Hamilton's thriller takes hold of the audience's assembled spines and, without disguising its excesses, keeps them satisfactorily iced-up until the moment when the villain is dragged by policemen in high collars into the 19th-century London murk.

The murk and menace are felt before a word is spoken. Fog puffs up the stairs, followed by amorphous figures casting shadows as they scurry across the landing. Then up go the gas lamps that are to figure so significantly in the plot, dimly revealing the sort of dark green walls and dark brown curtains within whose orbit nothing good can happen. From a piano offstage come sinister discords, ominous rumbles, stealthy paddings up the scale. Even the chap shouting "muffins, muffins" in the street below sounds as though he is hawking ingredients for the witches' pot in *Macbeth*.

Then, a moment of calculated anti-climax. The couple in this living room look and sound as if they belong in *A Doll's House* rather than *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Robert Pickavance's Jack Manningham sprawls in an armchair, grinning and gurgling with self-satisfaction as he tells Sally Edwards's Bella Manningham, who hovers edgily nearby, that he wishes she weren't "such a perfect little silly". Meet the English counterparts of Ibsen's arrogant Torvald and his poor, patronised Nora.

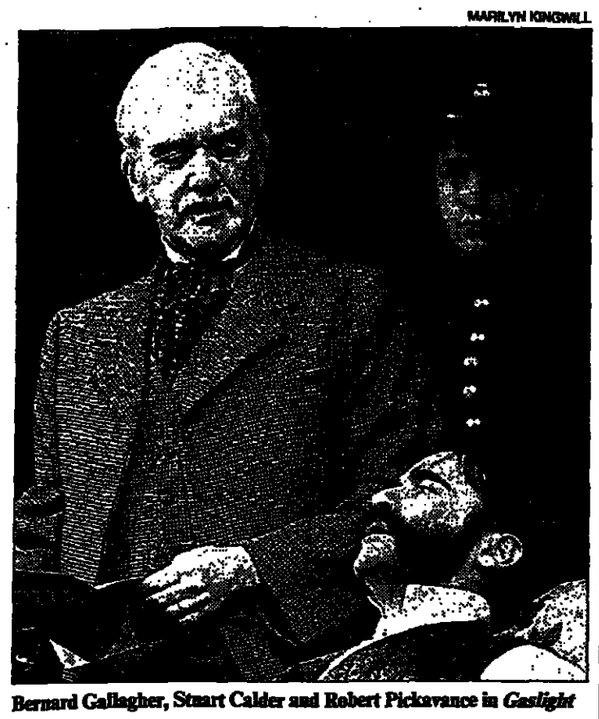
The tension soon reasserts itself, however, and is not just a matter of an unjust husband and a repressed wife. According to Jack, Bella has been doing irrational things, such as hiding the family portraits and forgetting where she has put them; and she seems to half believe him. Indeed, Edwards begins to behave like a blend of the mad Ophelia and the distraught Lady Macbeth by way of expressing her character's fear and guilt. Is she losing her mind, as Jack says? Has she been driven potty by a petty despot, as a modern psychiatrist might suggest? Or is there a grimmer alternative? Could Torvald be Iago in a frock-coat?

Many will know the answer, either from earlier revivals or from the film of the play. But it would be a pity to spoil so expert, if extravagant, a piece of plotting for the more innocent. Enough to say that Pickavance — on the evidence of the text, far too young for the role — has a nimble yet serpentine presence that more than justifies his casting. He needs only to sway to transfix a vulnerable woman and, it seems, only to dart forward to finish her off.

True, the play is packed with melodramatic lines and moments. Even in the grimmest Victorian households, wives were not often found screeching: "Oh God, not my room, for God's sake don't lock me in my room", while their husbands ogled and sneered from the sidelines. What Castledine, Edwards and Pickavance all know, however, is that the right response to melodrama is to believe in it, throw the self wholly into it. That way, the audience, too, will suspend its scepticism. That way comes the kind of fun now on offer at Greenwich.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Bernard Gallagher, Stuart Calder and Robert Pickavance in *Gaslight*

THEATRE

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Strand

THIS is the only pantomime to contain truly wicked characters. Demon kings do not count because nobody can take seriously villains who speak in rhymed couplets.

In the first minute, Snow White's mother, the White Queen, dies in childbirth and her father has married the Red Queen, the name given to the Wicked Queen in this version. The king is then despatched with a goblet of poisoned wine, leaving the Red Queen with nothing to fear but her candid mirror and Snow White's advance to puberty.

Eighteen years pass in a flash, and on trips Snow White (Louise English) wearing the obligatory Tyrolean skirt; a charming and pretty lass, of course, although decidedly slow on the uptake.

Whereas the mirror in the Disney film must have been seriously warped ever to have thought its queen beautiful, Marti Caine's Red Queen is a real stunner. She has to perform the tricky balancing act of portraying undoubted nastiness without scaring the tots, and although she even threatens them with a sabre-toothed teddy in their stockings, the children obviously feel they can still hiss her without fear.

Derek Griffiths is another who snaps at the audience, but here there is no doubt that he is on the side of good, stepping from his role as narrator to serve as an all-seeing owl, soft-hearted huntsman and, best of all, Gipsy King.

He and his polyglot entourage, stuttering in Spanish, flirting in Italian, dancing in Greek and murdering a violin in Hungarian, provide a youthfully boisterous forest interlude — in welcome contrast to the dinky bunnies.

Snow White's Prince has to work with some silly moves for his love song with English, but endearingly extricates himself from a couple of accidental tongue twisters.

The Seven Dwarfs (Surly, Dozey, etc) are played by whatever the current euphemism is for actors whose heads are on a level with Snow White's waist, their presence adding an out-of-the-ordinary wonder to the show.

Pretty backdrops, familiar songs, wit and puffs of smoke all make their contribution to a spirited panto.

JEREMY KINGSTON

JAZZ

Ahmad Jamal
Jazz Café

LEAVING aside such titans as Nik Kershaw, not many musicians have received ringing endorsements from Miles Davis in recent years. The pianist Ahmad Jamal is one of the exceptions. All the more strange, then, that he is still little known outside a small circle of fans.

In the Fifties, Davis readily admitted his admiration for Jamal's lean, introspective style. A fair number of the pianist's tunes — among them "New Rhumba" and "Ahmad's Blues" — quickly found their way into the trumpeter's repertoire. In the late Seventies, when the Prince of Darkness had virtually renounced jazz in favour of other pleasures, a concert by Jamal could still spark his enthusiasm.

Most of the jazz fraternity has taken a different view. Because of his light touch and taste for lyrical ballads, Jamal was early on dismissed as a cocktail pianist, a description he has struggled to shake off.

With luck, his six-night residency at the Jazz Café — his first British concerts in almost a decade — should dispel the preconceptions. This was a ferocious performance, full of colour and incident. Anybody coming to hear recreations of Jamal's early live albums will probably be disappointed. He has moved on a long way since then and, at 60, is still exploring new paths.

Yet, with careful listening, it is still possible to hear the Jamal of 30 years ago. The spare motifs, the discreet right-hand embellishments, are still there. The main change is in the accompaniment. Where earlier sidemen created a spacious backdrop, bassist James Cammack and drummer David Bowler are constantly moving forward with intense and unrelenting dialogues. Bowler, it must be said, is overpowering at times. Silence sometimes speaks louder than the longest drum solo.

Jamal directs proceedings like a conductor, emphasising changes of direction by raising his hand or pointing a finger. The best parallel that comes to mind is Davis's band of a decade or so ago, where the seething energy could be controlled with the tiniest of gestures. We hear a great deal about so-called "power trios". This was the genuine article.

CLIVE DAVIS

TELEVISION

Priest on Trial/Days of Fear, Days of Rage
Channel 4/BBC 2

THOUGH it has yet to turn up as a thriller at airport bookstalls, the story of Father Bernard Lynch has all the makings of another vanity-bonfire analysis of New York life in the 1980s. Lynch is an Irish Catholic priest who last year was accused of sexually abusing a boy of 14 in the school of which he was chaplain. That school was in the Bronx, and his prosecutor was a district attorney himself deeply involved in corruption charges at the time of the trial. The only prosecution witness was a young, emotionally unstable gay man.

Given the cost of bringing any defendant to trial in the Bronx, the judge was understandably amazed at the total collapse of the prosecution case from the very outset.

The mystery therefore starts here: it is not about the supposed guilt of the priest, against whom not a shred of evidence could be made to stick, but about the New York alliance of three parties which caused the case to be brought to court.

First there was the local Catholic church, deeply uneasy about Father Lynch's high-profile missionary work among a gay community already decimated by Aids, and the implication that the church itself was not doing enough on their behalf. Then there was a extremist alliance known as Safe, the Society Against Faggots in Education, which wanted to have all gays banned from classrooms; and third, there was the state prosecutor, desperate for a publicised conviction that would win him some much-needed votes and get the attention away from his own political troubles.

That these three separate forces should have come together against such a man of forgiveness and resourcefulness who remained strong even when all of the New York press seemed ranged against him, is what gives the case its historical fascination. Last night's Channel 4 documentary, A Priest on Trial, had to do no more than tell the story of how the church, the law, and a homophobic society conspired to try to destroy a man of God.

Happily they failed to do so, though, as with the McCarthyism of the 1950s, there lingers the aura of groundless suspicion: Lynch will always be known, quite wrongly, as the priest in the sex scandal of the Bronx, despite the fact that from the very outset the prosecution must have known it had no case. What they did not reckon with was the resilience of their victim, and the story stands as a massive indictment of the religious and political establishment of New York at the end of the last decade.

Over on BBC 2, in **Days of Fear, Days of Rage**, Mike Phillips came up with an equally bleak view of intolerance, in Europe. This time it was focused on the migrant workers who have come from the Third World to Germany and Spain, only to find themselves bounded and abused by a native population which feels its own national identity to be increasingly threatened. If things continue in Barcelona, the 1992 Olympics will be a symbol not of the new European unity of that year but of much older international and racial tensions.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

NEW RELEASES

HEAVY PETTING: An amusing cocktail of clips from American sex education films mixed with celebrities recalling their first fumblings.
ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

◆ MIAMI BLUES (18): Quirky thriller heading nowhere, though the off-beat characters are a delight. Alec Baldwin as a rampaging ex-con; Fred Ward as a seedy cop; Jennifer Jason Leigh as a call-girl caught in the fracas. Produced by Jonathan Demme.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2 (U): A return visit to the land of Fantasia. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unlikeable child actor, Jonathan Brandis, spoils some of the fun.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THREE SISTERS (12): Chekhov updated to an Italian university town in the 1980s. Sparks fly from *all* three actresses (Fanny Ardant, Greta Scacchi, Valeria Golino), yet the film stays in low gear. Director, Margarethe von Trotta.
Premiere (071-439 4470).

CURRENT

◆ AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15): Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame.
Renoir (071-837 8402).

THE BIG PICTURE (15): Genial satire on Hollywood moviemaking from two alumni of *This is Spinal Tap*, Christopher Guest and Michael McKean; with Kevin Bacon as a young director on the make.
Cannons: Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Fulham Road (071-370 2636).

◆ BLUE STEEL (18): Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor; handsomely mounted.
Odeon Haymarket (071-839 7697).

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson mooching around Venice, falling prey to the warped Christopher Walken. Laborious psychological drama.
Curzon Mayfair (071-499 3737).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

◆ DEATH WARRANT (18): Action video king Jean-Claude van Damme as an undercover cop in prison. Bloodthirsty exploitation drama; director, Deran Sarafian.
Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ FLATLINERS (15): Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director, Joel Schumacher.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (0426 914 098) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324)

◆ GHOST (12): Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Bizarre, incoherent, but absorbing while it lasts.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ GOODFELLAS (18): Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. With Robert De Niro.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HENRY AND JUNE (18): Anaïs Nin's passionate affair with Henry Miller in bohemian Paris recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ HOME ALONE (PG): Plucky kid left alone at Christmas wards off bumbling burglars. Broad, machine-tooled American family fun from writer-producer John Hughes; with Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. A big US hit.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE HOT SPOT (18): Raging sexual fires and duplicity in a lazy Texas town, deliciously evoked by director Dennis Hopper. Don Johnson as the drifter who unearths a hornet's nest.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

◆ THE LITTLE MERMAID (U): Disney's much-touted version of Hans Christian Andersen's fantasy.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stillman's wickedly ironic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and preppies over one Christmas holiday. Witty dialogue, engaging young actors, elegant direction.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Lumière (071-836 0691) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

◆ PRESUMED INNOCENT (15): Alan J. Pakula's riveting, thoughtful version of Scott Turow's bestseller, with Harrison Ford and Greta Scacchi.
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324)

THE SHELTERING SKY (18): A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warming visual sweep by Bernardo Bertolucci with John Malkovich and Debra Winger.
Odeon Leicester Square (071-930 6111).

◆ TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG): Noisy, charmless feature-length advert for the new pop culture fad.
Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Swiss Cottage (0426 914 098) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

TIME OF THE GYPSIES (15): Noisy account of Yugoslav gypsy youngsters conscripted into an army of thieves. Dazzling set-pieces, but the disjointed narrative saps the film's energy.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742).

VAMPIRE'S KISS (18): Woman bites Manhattan literary agent; agent becomes vampire. Awkward mix of horror, comedy and psychological drama, with Nicolas Cage, Jennifer Beals; director, Robert Bierman.
Cannons: Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Panton Street (071-930 0631).

A WORLD WITHOUT PITY (15): Life and loves of a Parisian layabout; a promising debut by young French director Eric Rochant, with disarming performances (Hippolyte Girardot, Mireille Perrier).
Renoir (071-837 8402).

□ BOOKENDS: Disappointingly empty tale of two literary blokes: Michael Hordern and Dinsdale Landen try to find some content.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 2663). *Underground*: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs.

□ THE BOYS NEXT DOOR: Tom Griffin's patronising view of the mentally ill-adjusted. Fine acting, with Steve Guttenberg. Transfer from Hampstead.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Fri, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins. Ends December 29.

□ THE COUNTRY WIFE: Appallingly heavy-handed, old fashioned production, though Fenella Fielding has her stylish moments.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-410 0000). Underground: Blackfriars. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 3hrs.

▨ THE CRUCIBLE: Tom Wilkinson stands up for decency against a frantic Clare Holman and other Demons in a strongly cast production.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Today, 2pm, 7.15pm, tomorrow, 7.15pm. Running time: 3hrs 30mins.

■ DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's hauntingly beautiful memory play that brings Donegal Catholic prudery up against *pagan* ecstasy.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

■ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous jazzy revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. An evening of joy.
Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins.

□ GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Rather over the top but lots of laughs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

□ HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Hannah Gordon (her first week) and Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's thought-provoking play.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). *Underground*: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

□ INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales; grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns sloshy thereafter.
Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661). *Underground*: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ House full, returns only
▨ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ JUST SO: Just a so-so musical on the Kipling tales: songs pleasant, costumes charming, story oddly pale.
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Underground: Kilburn. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Ends January 12.

□ THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Spoof Gothic melodrama, ranging between the farcically funny and the feebly frantic.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs.

▨ NO *ONE* SEES THE VIDEO: Celia Imrie, Stephen Tompkinson in Martin Crimp's well-informed if patchy glimpse at the moral voids in market research.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 2554). Underground: Sloane Square. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends Saturday.

□ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

□ PRIVATE LIVES: Keith Baxter, Joan Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

□ THE REAL DON JUAN: Nineteenth-century Spanish classic handsomely staged by Oxford Stage Company. John Michie plays the lusty Don.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-748 3354). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Ends Saturday.

□ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Conran) of Anouilh's seduction play.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

□ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes deafening rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 9pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

□ SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE: Alan Howard and Penny Downie in Bergman's two-hander: disappointingly slack after its transfer from Chichester.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 20mins.

■ THREE SISTERS: Three Redgraves in admirable if over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older girls.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

□ TIME AND THE CONWAYS: Joan Plowright and lots of other Oliviers in Priestley's dullish play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Underground: Waterloo. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 35mins.

□ TO: The bustle of Lancashire pub life unevenly caught by Jim Cartwright's role-swapping cast of two.
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Running time: 1hr 35mins. Ends Saturday.

▨ WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, assault and bisexual junketing preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but well worth seeing.
Hampstead, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Swiss Cottage. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs.

LONG RUNNERS: ▨ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ■ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ▨ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . . ▨ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ■ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . □ Man of the Moment: Globe (071-437 3667) . . . ▨ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: (postal bookings only) Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . □ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: (postal bookings only) Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . . ▨ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . □ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . . □ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . □ A Slice of Saturday Night: Arts (071-836 2132) . . . ▨ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . □ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

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ALL COPLAND: What was intended as a 90th-birthday celebration has turned into a memorial concert for Aaron Copland. It brings a comparatively rare opportunity to hear *Appalachian Spring* in its original scoring for 13 instruments. David Atherton conducts the London Sinfonietta.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.45pm.

AHMAD JAMAL: Something of a coup for this new venue is a rare visit by the American pianist whose spartan phrasing was once a prime influence on Miles Davis.
(see review, left)
Jazz Café, 5 Parkway, London NW1 (071-284 4358), 9pm. Until Saturday.

JEAN TOUSSAINT: Brash, pebble-toned bop solos from the former Jazz Messengers sideman, playing with a trio of players — Winston Clifford, drums, Wayne Batchelor, bass and Julian Joseph, piano.
Bass Clef, Hoxton Square, London N1 (071-729 2476), 9pm.

TODAY'S EVENTS

THE NUTCRACKER: Two performances today of Tchaikovsky's popular Christmas classic. The matinee brings together the dazzling combination of Bruce Sansom and Viviana Durante who make their Covent Garden debuts in the leading roles, followed by another company debut by Irek Mukhamedov (partnered by Lesley Collier) in the evening performance.
Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 2.30pm, 7.30pm.

CHILDREN OF EDEN: Previews begin tonight for a new musical based on the book of Genesis. With such an impressive team behind the production — adaptation by John Caird, ex-Royal Shakespeare Company director, lyrics and music by Stephen Schwartz of *Godspell* fame, and lighting and designs by the *Cats/Les Misérables/Miss Saigon* team — expectations run high.
Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton Street, London W1 (071-734 8951), 7.45pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: The penultimate performance in the closing season of John Cox's *Così fan tutte*, which is unlikely to be revived again by the ENO. Up-and-coming star Andrew Shore sings the role of Don Alfonso, with Rita Cullis as Fiordiligi and Lesley Garrett as Despina.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7pm.

LION LORE: The Lion of St Mark from Venice must be the most famous jigsaw puzzle in the world. Its date had not been entirely agreed . . . but the British Museum reveals all.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1555), 10am-5pm.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

TOMAN

(b) A myriad or ten thousand in numbers, also a former gold coin worth 10,000 dinars, from the Persian *tūmān*: "The fruitful and fertile territory of Cash, of which his fathers were the hereditary chiefs, as well as a toman of ten thousand horse."

DAPSONE

(c) A drug widely used in the treatment of leprosy, dermatitis, etc., a tricky acronym and abbreviation compounded from d(i) + a(mino) + p(henyl) s(ulph)one, dapsone: "A proportion of leprosy patients who have relapsed during treatment with dapsone."

POLLEX

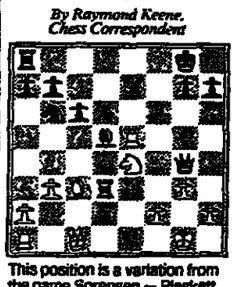
(b) The thumb or its analogue, from the Latin *pollex* the thumb or big toe: "She clutched her bag between index and pollex."

ENOMOTY

(a) A band of sworn soldiers and chums, especially the smallest Spartan subdivision in their terrifying army, from the Greek *en* in + *omnunai* to swear: "They filled the middest, if very wide, by enomoties."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is a variation from the game Sorensen — Plaskett, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Challengers 1989/90. How can White force a quick decision? Solution in tomorrow's *Times*.

Visitors to category 14 Hastings Premier should ring 0424 442500 for details.

Yesterday's solution: 1 ... Bxg2! 2 Qxg2 Rg3 wins the queen. Alternatively 2 Kxg2 Rg3+ 3 Kf2 Qh2+ 4 Ke1 Re3+ forcing mate.

aimed to express their faith in | honeymoon will be spent | daughter of Mr and Mrs G.L. | Friday, January 18, 1991, will be | meet,

هكذا من الأصل

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer
8.50 Daytime UK. Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester review the morning's activities
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwave. Quiz show presented by Andy Craig 9.25 Dish of the Day. More helpful cookery tips from Rosemary Moon 9.30 People Today. Includes Dr Eva Jacobs with advice on keeping healthy over the festive season
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Children's BBC, introduced by *Simon Parkin*, begins with *Playdays 10.25 Bunyip.* Cartoon about a mythical Australian creature (r) 10.35 People Today includes *UK Tomorrow* which spotlights initiatives by young people to improve the environment
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk and his studio audience discuss another topical subject 11.45 Before Noon. Viewers' phone calls and today's *Brainwave* quiz winner
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Happy Memories. Cliff Michelmore and Wendy Gibson in Newcastle with viewers' memories of Christmas past 12.20 Scene Today. With Rosemary Conley offering advice on how to stay slim over the Christmas period 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going For Gold. Henry Kelly hosts the European general knowledge quiz
2.15 Knots Landing. Glitzy American soap with the tanned residents of a Californian cul-de-sac
3.05 Primetime. Magazine programme for older viewers presented by David Jacobs and Sheila McLennon 3.45 Daffy Duck (r)
3.50 Animal Album. This week, film clips and cartoons about bears 4.05 Touche Turtle. Cartoon 4.10 Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show (r) 4.35 Hartbeat. Tony Hart and Alison Millar look at art with an inventive eye (Ceefax)
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Byker Grove. Drama series set in Tyneside. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan in the West End. Terry's guests include *Crocodile Dundee* star Paul Hogan and impresario Cameron Mackintosh
7.35 Doogie Howser, MD. Far-fetched American comedy-drama about a teenage doctor. (Ceefax)
8.00 The Trials of Life: Continuing the Line. David Attenborough concludes his absorbing look at behaviour in the animal world. Courtships, orgies and rampant procreation fill the screen in tonight's programme, which is devoted to the question of how animals reproduce. A tiny male nephila spider must wait until a giant female is feeding before he approaches her unless he wants to end up as her next meal. And palolo worms must save up their energies for 364 days of the year until one special night when they all get together and indulge in mass, unrestrained orgies. (Ceefax)
8.50 Points of View. Anne Robinson with viewers' comments on television programmes
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Blackadder Goes Forth. Gloriously anarchic comedy set in the trenches of the first world war. In the last of the series, Blackadder (Rowan Atkinson), George (Hugh Laurie) and Baldrick (Tony Robinson) look set to be blown to smithereens when it is announced that they are going "over the top". Can any cunning plan save them from the massacre to come? (r) (Ceefax) Northern Ireland. Raw

Encounter of a supernatural kind: Jobeth Williams (10.00pm)

10.00 Film: **Poltergeist** (1982). Knee-knockingly scary tale of a family whose home is built over a cemetery from which sinister forces emerge and try to carry off the children into another world. Alarmingly plausible and with great special effects, this is not one to watch if you have noticed any problems with your electrical goods or objects in your house mysteriously displaced. With Jobeth Williams, Craig T. Nelson and Heather O'Rourke. Directed by Tobe Hooper. (Ceefax)
11.50 Weather. Northern Ireland: (to 12.20am) Blackadder Goes Forth

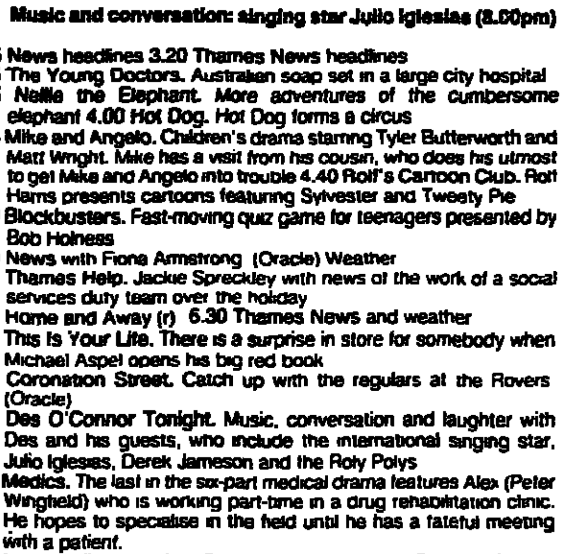
BBC 2

8.00 News
8.15 Westminster. A look at the business of the two Houses of Parliament
9.00 A Year in the Life. The second of a three-part mini series which follows a year in the life of an American family (r)
10.35 After Hours includes a feature on actor Patrick MacNee
10.55 The Invisible Man starring David McCallum (r)
11.40 Film: The Lady Gambles (1949, b/w). Barbara Stanwyck stars as Joan Boothe, a woman whose addiction to gambling threatens to wreck her marriage. Having attempted to cheat at dice, she is badly beaten up and handed over to the police doctor. Her estranged husband arrives, and the story of her addiction is revealed. Stanwyck makes the most of her melodramatic role but even she has a job enlivening a heavy-going film. With Robert Preston and Stephen McNally. Directed by Michael Gordon
1.20 The Adventures of Spot (r) 1.25 What's Inside? (r) 1.35 Country File (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by Border Run. Award-winning reporter Jon Swain returns, 15 years after his first visit, to the border between Thailand and Cambodia to investigate the lot of Cambodian refugees in Thai camps, to which they fled to escape the Khmer Rouge (r)
2.55 A Carol from Ely. "Silent Night" sung by the choir at Ely cathedral
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Quiz show
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Beverly Anderson is joined by 90-year old Frances Partridge, a member of the Bloomsbury set, Phyllis Pearsall, aged 84, the originator of the *A to Z*, and 87-year-old Lord Soper. They are questioned by children from two schools on how they view the world
5.00 Film 90 with Barry Norman (r)
5.30 Nature: Wall of Death. Tristne Holden reports on the contentious subject of driftnet fishing (r). (Ceefax)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. The disappearance of an earth colony from the Omicron Theta star system is investigated and the crew comes across an interesting android. With Patrick Stewart. (Ceefax)
6.50 DEF II begins with Dance Energy Update. Dance music, a video vote and an updated chart. Followed by Autobiography of the USA. A personalised look at American History 7.00 Rough Guide to Careers. Raj Dhanda and Lindsay MacRae look at careers in the sport and leisure industry
7.40 Rapido. Antoine de Caunes hosts the pop show which also takes a look at movies, fashion and design. Guests in this programme include Dave Stewart, Vanilla Ice and the Hit Men
8.10 Antenna.
● CHOICE: The science magazine's main item is a report from Brazil on an archaeological dig that is challenging the accepted wisdom about the age of the first Americans. According to the traditional view, no humans lived on the American continent before 12,000 years ago. But carbon dating of charcoal used in camp fires, together with evidence from stone tools, has led a French archaeologist, Professor Niède Guidon, to claim that the first Americans were Brazilians and that they were living at least 48,000 years ago. Her conclusions have been disputed but the recent discovery of the first human skeleton to be found on the site seems sure to provide further fuel for what the film calls "the hottest debate in American archaeology". *Antenna*'s other items are a witty three-minute cartoon offering a solution to long waits at the doctor and an investigation into fractuals, computer generated pictures based on geometric concepts which may have something useful to say about recurring patterns in nature
9.00 *M*A*S*H*. The 4077th staff do their best to reduce Colonel Potter's blood pressure before his annual medical (r)
9.25 Die Kinder. Conclusion of Paula Milne's thriller starring Miranda Richardson as a mother looking for her abducted children. (Ceefax)
10.25 Fifth Column. Personal view of current debate
10.30 Newsnight
11.15 The Late Show includes a visit to the new terminal at Stansted Airport, designed by Sir Norman Foster 11.55 Weather
12.00 *Behind the Headlines. See 4.30. Ends at 12.35am*

High blood pressure: Colonel Potter (Harry Morgan) (9.00pm)

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Keynotes. Music quiz 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Real Ghostbusters: Ghost Fight at the OK Corral. The legendary Wyatt Earp and his gang return from the dead to do battle with the Ghostbusters (r)
10.40 This Morning. Magazine programme presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes Denise Robertson, the agony aunt, and a Christmas message from Bob Hope
12.05 Allsorts. For the young 12.25 Home And Away. Australian soap about a couple and their foster children 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 The Home Show. With Molly Parkin and Roddy Llewellyn. Molly visits best-selling author, Jeffrey Archer in his London penthouse, while Roddy demonstrates how to create an instant garden. Plus ideas on building kit homes, and space-saving tips 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian drama based around a community health centre in the outback
2.20 Take the High Road. Soap set in the Highlands 2.50 Talkabout. *Andrew O'Connor hosts the game show for quick-thinking couples* with the gift of the gab



Music and conversation: singing star Julio Iglesias (8.00pm)

3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines
3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian soap set in a large city hospital
3.55 Nellie the Elephant. *More adventures of the cumbersome elephant 4.00 Hot Dog. Hot Dog forms a circus*
4.15 Mike and Angelo. Children's drama starring Tyler Butterworth and Matt Wright. Mike has a visit from his cousin, who does his utmost to get Mike and Angelo into trouble 4.40 Rolf's Cartoon Club. Rolf Harris presents cartoons featuring Sylvester and Tweety Pie
5.10 Blockbusters. Fast-moving quiz game for teenagers presented by Bob Holness
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Spreckley with news of the work of a social services duty team over the holiday
6.00 Home and Away (r) 6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 This Is Your Life. There is a surprise in store for somebody when Michael Aspel opens his big red book
7.30 Coronation Street. Catch up with the regulars at the Rovers (Oracle)
8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. Music, conversation and laughter with Des and his guests, who include the international singing star, Julio Iglesias, Derek Jameson and the Roly Polys
9.00 Medics. The last in the six-part medical drama features Alex (Peter Wingfield) who is working part-time in a drug rehabilitation clinic. He hopes to specialise in the field until he has a fateful meeting with a patient.
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 Dress Gray. The second and final part of the mini-series. The scandal and cover-up of the possible murder of a young army cadet at a military academy threatens to destroy the career of an upper classman
12.30am In the Heat of the Night. An investigation into a series of attacks on elderly citizens is hampered by a spate of bad luck for Virgil and his visiting in-laws
1.30 World Chess Championship. The latest action from the Karpov v Kasparov series of matches for the richest prize in chess. Presented by Raymond Keene, grandmaster and *The Times* chess correspondent
1.45 The Twilight Zone: Night Crawlers. A Vietnam veteran is haunted by memories of the war and is terrified of falling asleep in case his dreams become reality. Starring Scott Paulin
2.15 Videofashion. As preparations are made for the new Europe in 1992, fashion designers search at home and abroad for new sources of inspiration
2.40 America's Top Ten
3.10 Quiz Night. Inter-pub and club quiz
3.40 Three's Company. American sitcom
4.10 The Race Is On: The National Carriage Driving Championship from Windsor Great Park, with the Duke of Edinburgh among the competitors 4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w)
5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sing and Swing with the jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties (r)
6.20 Business Daily 6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Music and natural images
11.00 As It Happens. Richard Jobson and his crew go to Israel to find out about the way of life there
12.00 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily 1.00 Sesame Street
2.00 Pilgrimages. Last in the series. Anne Wilkinson, an ordained Baptist minister from Bath, visits Bavaria where she explores the spirit of resistance that is emerging there (Teletext)
2.30 Film: The Reluctant Debutante (1958). Rex Harrison and Kay Kendall as British parents who become increasingly disturbed by the romance that develops during the London season between their daughter (Sandra Dee) and an American dance band drummer (John Saxon). Polished comedy, based on William Douglas Home's stage hit and directed by Vincente Minnelli
4.15 Story of the Foolish Husband. Animation from the Soviet Union
4.30 Fifteen-To-One
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Fred Savage, billed as the latest American heart throb (he is aged 14), and familiar to British viewers *as Kevin from The Wonder Years* (see 6.00), invites Oprah Winfrey to his high-school prom 5.50 The Adventures of TinTin
6.00 The Wonder Years. Award-winning comedy series about growing up in the late Sixties, starring Fred Savage (r)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are pop singer Billy Idol and Australian comedian Bob Downe
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Oracle)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Brookside. Authentic and topical suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext)
8.30 Dispatches.
● CHOICE: A report from the United States highlights the controversy surrounding the drug, Prozac, which is widely prescribed for depression. It has become the leading anti-depressant in America and it is now on sale in Britain. For many it has proved to be an effective treatment, without the side effects produced by some existing drugs. But other patients claim that after taking Prozac they have become violent, suicidal and have even contemplated murder. One woman describes how she became determined to kill herself and her children in a car crash. Another woman attempted suicide six times in a year and stabbed herself more than 100 times. The manufacturer, Eli Lilly, says Prozac was extensively tested and denies a causal link with suicide. The programme reveals that British doctors are prescribing Prozac, unaware of the serious claims being made against it on the other side of the Atlantic
9.15 Without Walls: The Thing Is . . . Christmas Decorations. Paul Morley, journalist, critic, and presenter, investigates the British public's fascination with Christmas decorations. Followed at 9.45 by Books. Humphrey Carpenter, Frank Muir and Patricia Craig review a selection of this year's humorous writing
10.15 Sticky Moments on Tour with Julian Clary. Julian Clary carries on camping on Ben Nevis, the last venue of his studio-bound, globe-trotting tour

Triumvirate: Havergal (left), Prowse, MacDonald (11.00pm)

11.00 Glasgow Citizens.
● CHOICE: Diane Tammes's film about the Glasgow Citizens Theatre is a kaleidoscope rather than a chronology, based mainly on fly-on-the-wall observation. In place of a commentary, captions are rolled across the screen giving the essential facts and figures. The effect is paradoxical. On the one hand we are given privileged access to rehearsals, board meetings and other behind the scenes activity. On the other, the lack of any mediating presence means that we are distanced from events. The technique works best for conveying the flavour of the theatre, and the determination of its triumvirate of directors, Giles Havergal, Philip Prowse and Robert David MacDonald, to maintain an innovative artistic policy while pulling in enough money to make this possible. With tickets pegged to £5, and an auditorium of only 641 seats, this means large grants, small casts and modest salaries
12.20am Sid Caesar's Show of Shows (b/w).
12.45 Soul Sessions: James Brown and Friends. Recorded at Detroit's Taboo Club, this programme captures the historic encounter of famous performers in a red-hot hour of music, with Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Joe Cocker and Robert Palmer (r). Ends at 1.50

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Anglia News 12.30am Ski Tips 1.00 Quiz Night 1.30 Film: Hold Up 3.15 Music Special 4.15 Fifty Years On 4.35-5.00 Farming Diary

BORDER

As London except: 1.50pm Talkabout 2.20-3.45 Scottish Question Time 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Lookaround Wednesday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.30am Matlock 1.25 Donahue 2.20 Superstars of Wrestling 3.20 Film: Operation Madonna 4.50-5.00 Jobfinder

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Simply Delicious 3.25-3.55 Coronation Street 6.25-7.00 Central News 12.30am The Equalizer 1.25 Film: The Shuttered Room 3.20 Pick of the Week 3.50 60 Minutes 4.45-5.00 Jobs

CHANNEL

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 *Sons and Daughters* 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Channel Report 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.30am Film: Night Caller

GRANADA

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Coronation Street 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 12.30am Matlock 1.25 Donahue 2.20 Wrestling 3.20 Film: Operation Madonna *4.50-5.00* Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.20pm Simply Delicious 1.50-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Coronation Street 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.30am Desperado 2.20 B B King 3.15 Donahue 4.05 America's Top Ten 4.30 Hudson Confidential 4.55-5.00 Jobfinder

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales At Six

SCOTTISH

As London except: 1.50pm Talkabout 2.20-3.55 Scottish Question Time 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Scotland Today 6.30-7.00 Scottish International 12.30am Scottish International 1.00 Donahue 1.55 Film: Yesterday's Tomorrow 3.50-5.00 Brother Beyond

TSW

As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Cover Story (Cheryl Ladd) 3.25-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.35am The Law and Harry McGraw 1.25 Donahue 2.20 Wrestling 3.20 Film: Operation Madonna 4.50-5.00 TSW Jobfinder

TVS

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.30am Film: The Night Caller 2.00 Gloria Estefan 2.15 In Search Of... 2.40 Donahue 3.35 Night Heat 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Coronation Street 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Flashback 8.00-9.00 Celebration '90 12.30am Matlock 1.25 Donahue 2.20 Wrestling 3.20 Film: Operation Madonna 4.50-5.00 Jobs

ULSTER

As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 Coronation Street 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.35am Matlock 1.30 Donahue 2.25 Wrestling 3.25-5.00 Film: Operation Madonna

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Coronation Street 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 12.30am In the Heat of the Night 1.25 Comedy Tonight 1.55 Quiz Night 2.20 Space 4.05 Love American Style 4.25-5.00 Jobfinder

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sing and Swing 6.30 C4 *Daily 9.25 Sesame Street 10.25 Film: Spring in Park Lane** 12.05 Spectel 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Fifteen to One 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Calke Revealed 2.30 Black Faith 3.30 The Decade of Destruction 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Brookside 5.45 Heno 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Heno 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Hel Straeon 7.30 Y Bocs 8.00 Nadolig Heb Eira 8.30 Newyddion 8.55 Sbectrwm 9.25 Now You're Talking 9.50 Film: Olive 11.35 Sticky Moments On Tour With Julian Clary 12.20 Sid Caesar* 12.45-1.50 Soul Sessions

RTE 1

Starts: 12.30pm Check Up 1.00 News 1.35 Hands 2.00 Sam 3.00 "Live" At Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.20 Masterworks 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 7.00 No. 1 7.35 MacGyver 8.30 Look Here 9.00 News 9.30 Bibi From Moscow 10.30 Wednesday Report 11.05 Masquerade 11.55 News 12.05am Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.05 Jo-Maxi 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Coronation Street 8.00 News 8.05 This Is Your Life 8.35 Ferris Bueller 9.00 Cheers 9.30 News and Diamonds 10.25 Nighthawks 11.10-11.35 News

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.
5.30am Newsline 6.00 The DJ Kat Show, including Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot, followed by Playabout 9.00 Jackpot 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 It's Your Round 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful 11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.15 Loving 2.45 *Wife of the Week 3.15* Bewitched 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Lost in Space 6.00 Family Ties 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 The Secret Video Show 8.00 Alien Nation: *The Red Room* 9.00 Moonlighting: *'Twas the Episode before Christmas* 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 The Hitchhiker 11.00 Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer 12.00 The Ropers 12.30am Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites. News on the hour.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 Newsline 6.00 International Business Report 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 The Frank Bough Interview 1.30pm NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Parliament Live 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 The Frank Bough Interview 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 NBC Nightly News 2.30 The Frank Bough Interview 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 The Frank Bough Interview

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
10.00 Barnum (1984): Burt Lancaster stars as Phineas Taylor Barnum, creator of the "Greatest Show on Earth"
11.45 It's a Wonderful Life (1946): Sentimental classic starring James Stewart as a small-time businessman who dedicates his life to helping others. When his business collapses, his guardian angel rescues him from committing suicide and takes him on a guided tour of his life, revealing the happiness and joy he has spread
2.00 Silver Dream Racer (1980): A motorcycle mechanic (David Essex) takes on the reigning motorcycle racing champion (Beau Bridges)
4.00 Tintin: Explorers on the Moon: Animated adventures with Tin Tin and Snowy
5.00 Rudolph's *Shiny New Year*: Happy, the New Year baby, is missing and Rudolph the reindeer sets out to find him
6.00 Made in Heaven (1987). When Timothy Hutton dies and goes to Heaven, he meets *and falls in love with a new soul waiting to be* born (Kelly McGillis). Reincarnated on Earth, the two begin their search for each other
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 House of Games (1987): Lindsay Crouse plays a psychologist who becomes a pawn in a deadly game played by a quick-witted conman (Joe Mantegna)
9.40 At the Pictures
10.00 Robocop (1987). Peter Weller stars as the future of law enforcement, an injured cop who is cybernetically augmented and let loose on the gangs of Detroit City
11.40 The Night Before (1987): Keanu Reeves wakes up in a Los Angeles alleyway the morning after his high school prom and recalls having sold his girlfriend (Lori Loughlin) to white slave traders
1.30am Emmanuelle IV (1984): Raunchy romp starring Sylvia Kristel and Mia Nygren. Emmanuelle undergoes plastic surgery to escape a former lover, and becomes a new woman
4.00 The Silent Flute (1978). In this martial arts extravaganza, Cord (Jeff Cooper) must fight David Carradine, who plays a series of bizarre characters, in his quest for the Book of Enlightenment, the key to both physical and spiritual power. Ends at 5.30

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am As Sky One 8.30 Eurobics 9.00 Ice Skating 10.00 Golf 11.00 Martial Arts Festival 12.00 Eurobics 12.30pm Snooker: Dubai Classic 2.30 Tennis 4.30 Equestrianism: Show jumping and dressage from Nuemnster, Germany 5.30 World Cup Skiing: Men's Slalom from Madonna di Campiglio, Italy 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Trans World Sport 8.00 Ford Ski Report 9.00 Boxing 10.00 The Arnold Palmer Story 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Snooker: Dubai Classic

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Skiing Pro Ski Tour 8.00 Volleyball: USSR v France 9.00 "Go" Dutch Motor Sports 10.00 Ice Hockey 12.00 The Sports Show 1.00pm Sport en France 1.30 1990 Essen Motorshow 2.00 WBC Boxing from the Forum: Gonzales v Pascual 3.00 Tenpin Bowling 3.30 High Five 4.00 Show Jumping World Cup 5.00 World Cup Figure Skating 6.00 US College Football 8.00 Live Matchroom Pro Box (NB: The following schedule is subject to change) 10.00 Hong Kong Invitational Horse Race 10.30 Ice Hockey 12.30am High Five

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am Everyday Workout 10.30 Search for Tomorrow 10.55 Coffee Break 11.00 We're Cooking Now 11.35 The Edge of Night 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Pam and Dave's Christmas Rave 1.20 Great American Gameshows 2.30 Film: Love at the Top 4.05 Great American Gameshows 5.20 Tea Break 5.30 WKRP in Cincinnati 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
2.00pm The Movie Channel
2.30 The Mating Game (1959). Debbie Reynolds and Tony Randall star in this comedy about a tax inspector who falls in love with a farm girl
4.20 Fire and Ice (1983). Cartoon
6.00 The Game of Love (1989). Ken Olin and Ed Marinaro play the dating game in an American singles bar
8.15 Out of Bounds (1986): Thriller about a teenager who is pursued both by the police and by a violent drug dealer. Starring Anthony Michael Hall
10.00 The Hitcher (1986). A murderer (Rutger Hauer) is offered a lift by an *unfortunate C. Thomas Howell*
11.45 It Takes Two (1988). Romantic comedy about a groom who embarks on a final fling on the eve of his wedding. Starring George Newbern and Leslie Hope
1.15am Tucker: The Man and His Dream (1988): The story of Forties car designer Preston Tucker and his struggle to produce the ground-breaking Tucker Torpedo. Starring Jeff Bridges. Ends at 3.15

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
1.25pm Sportsdesk 1.30 Racing Today 2.00 National Football League 4.00 Supercross 5.00 American Wrestling 6.00 Sportsdesk 6.30 Tennis Match of the Year 7.30 Live Main Event Basketball Kingston v Split 9.30 I Was There Rugby League Test New Zealand v Great Britain 10.30 Sportsdesk 11.00 Motorsport Review 11.30 Racing Today with Ian Carnaby and Richard Pitman 12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30am The Main Event Basketball Kingston v Split

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Telemann (Overture-Suite, Tafelmusick, III: Musica Antiqua Koln under Reinhard Goebel)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Strauss (Zueignung, Op 10 No 1; *Freundliche Vision*, Op 48 No 1; Die heiligen drei Konige, Op 56 No 6: Berlin RSO under George Szell, with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, soprano); Rachmaninov (Polichinelle in F sharp minor; Melody in E: the composer, piano roll); Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 54: BBC SO under Colin Davis, with Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich, piano)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Handel. Concerto in B flat, Op 3 No 1 (English Concert under Pinnock); Funeral Anthem for Queen Caroline (Taverner Choir and Players under Parrott, with Emily van Evera, soprano; Timothy Wilson, alto; Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor; Nancy Argenta, soprano; *David Thomas, bass; Jeremy* White, bass)
9.35 Midweek Choice: A Christmas edition, presented by Susan Sharpe. With guest Mitsuko Uchida
12.10pm BBC Scottish SO under Alexander Rahbari, with Gordon Fergus-Thompson, piano, performs Barber (Essay No 2); Von Einem (Suite, Dantons Tod); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1)
1.00 News
1.05 Concert Hall: Live from Broadcasting House, London. The pianist Joanna MacGregor plays Berg (Sonata, Op 1); Schoenberg (Six Little Pieces, Op 19); Four Broadway arrangements: Harold Arlen, arr Django Bates (It's Only a Paper Moon); Cole Porter, arr Gary Carpenter (Love for Sale); Jerome Kern, arr Alasdair Nicholson (Can't Help Lovin' That Man); Al Dubin, arr Alasdair Nicholson (42nd Street)
2.00 Record Review (r)
3.10 Vintage Years: Joseph Fuchs, violin, Lillian Fuchs, viola, and Paul Tortelier, cello, perform Mozart (Divertimento in E flat, K 563)
4.00 Choral Evensong: Live from Winchester Cathedral
5.00 Winter in Switzerland: Traditional sounds and music from Appenzell, the Muota Valley, the Vaud, Ticino, and the Carnival of Basel, including pre-war recordings by the Swiss folk-clarinettist Kasi Geisser, and by the Alder family of Urnäsch. Presented by John Thornley (r)
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure with Natalie Wheen
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear
7.30 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Choir under Libor Pešek, with Rita Cullis, soprano, Penelope Walker, alto, perform Boulez (Notations, I, IV, III, II); Mahler (Symphony No 2 in C minor, Resurrection) (r)
9.25 Chroniclers of Power:
● CHOICE: In politics, a mocking bird can be as alarming as a mole. So says Anthony Howard, winding up his survey of political Pepyses who have kept, and sometimes published, their diaries (Crossman, Castle, Benn, etc). He means Tory back-bencher Julian Critchley, of whom Howard clearly expects great things if and when he takes up the diarist's pen. Meanwhile, Howard and his top-flight cast discuss topics such as whether Westminster diarists can simultaneously be both performer and voyeur
10.10 *Christian Blackshaw*: The pianist plays Beethoven (Sonata in E minor, Op 90); Schumann (Fantasie in C, Op 17) (r)
11.00 Sarangi Ka Sangit: BBC Concert Orchestra under James Lockhart, with Erich *Gruenberg*, violin, performs John Mayer (Violin Concerto — first broadcast performance)
11.30 Composers of the Week: Martinů (Czech Dances Nos 1 and 2, Borová; Špalíček Act 3, Scene 2; Serenade No 1 for clarinet, horn, three violins and viola; The Nativity, Plays of Mary, Nonet) (r)
12.30am News 12.35 Close

Mitsuko Uchida (9.35am)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 *News Briefing*; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, with Brian Redhead and John Humphrys, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, *8.30* News 6.55, 7.55, 8.57 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Midweek with *Libby Purves*
10.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time from Nottingham (r)
10.30 Morning Story: On the Left Side, by Michael Carson. Read by Sorcha Cusack
10.45 Daily Service
11.00 News; File on 4 (r)
11.42 Red Letter Days: Andy Croft assesses the life and work of the inter-war romantic novelist Ethel Mannin (s) (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Families and How to Survive Them: For Better for Worse — Which Way Will the Marriage Go? John Cleese and psychiatrist Dr Robin Skynner discuss how relationships are formed, sustained and developed (2 of 6) (s) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One with James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: Presented by Jenni Murray. Includes a discussion on whether creative writing can be taught; an item on how to make the best savings when booking next summer's holiday; and a report on the lives of white women in Zimbabwe who stayed on after independence
3.00 News; The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain:
● *CHOICE*: With Jill Brooke's adaptation of Dickens's *Christmas Book*, BBC radio forges the first link in the benign chain connecting Dickens with the festive season. Paradoxically, though, it's the malign that's at the heart of this story about a man who enters into a compact with his alter ego to erase the memory of the bad things of life only to find he has wiped out the good as well. It's time we were reminded that *A Christmas Carol* — on Radio 4, this Saturday afternoon — isn't the only Dickens *Christmas Book* with a message for all people for all seasons
3.47 Treasure Islands: Tony Russell learns some tips on reading aloud to children
4.00 News
4.05 Write Me Soon and Write Me Long: The story of the courtship-by-post of colonial estate manager William Livingstone to his Scottish fiancée, schoolteacher Kitty Maclachlan. Their marriage in 1908 came to an abrupt end when he was murdered in one of the most infamous uprisings in British colonial history
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes reviews of the films *The Neverending Story Part 2* and *Home Alone*; singer Jill Gomez talks about her new record of Latin American music; and Gillian Reynolds previews what's on radio at Christmas (s)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report
6.30 Counterpoint: General knowledge music quiz chaired by Ned Sherrin (s) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Age to Age: Barry Cunliffe tells the story of the earliest *consumer body, the Co-operative Movement* (r)
7.45 Medicine Now with Geoff Watts (r)
8.15 Going South: A Place of Sun and Singing. Robert Weddle retraces his footsteps of 30 years ago when, with fellow student Anthony Halford, he walked 1,000 miles from Chartres to Assisi. The last of three programmes (s)
8.45 The 1990 Reith Lectures: The Persistence of Faith. *A Community of Communities*, the final talk by Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks on religion and ethics in a secular society
9.15 Kaleidoscope (s) (broadcast at 4.30pm)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight with Roger Whale 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: In My Wildest Dreams, by Leslie Thomas (5 of 12)
11.00 Looking Forward to the Past: Robert Boom takes a light-hearted view of history (s) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.30am News incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m: FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m. FM 94.9. Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW 5.00am Gary King 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '90 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 The Man Ezeke Sunshine Show 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW 4.00am Steve Madden 5.30 *Chris Stuart* 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Bob Holness 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Law Game Quiz 7.30 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 Christmas Ceilidh 9.00 Nigel Ogden: The Organist Entertains 9.30 The Golden Years 10.00 Ken Bruce 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.30 Vince Hill's Solid Gold Music Show (r) 1.00am-4.00 Bill Rennells with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Take Five 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.40 This Family Business, incl 11.00 Sport 12.00 News: Sport 12.30pm Education Matters 1.00 Sport 1.05 European Concert with Chris de Souza 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service. Meridian Feature 3.00 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Endangered People 4.00 News 4.05 Development 90 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 Christmas Tales. "Mole's Christmas" from The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame 7.35 London Snow. A mystery story by Paul Theroux 8.00 Sporting Albums. Tennis star Jo Durie talks to Garth Crooks about her favourite music 8.30 Review of the Sporting Year, with John Inverdale 9.30 Español, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service 11.58-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours, News Summary and Financial News 7.30 Development '90 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Business Matters 8.30 Quote Unquote 9.00 News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News, Sports Roundup 9.45 Media Watch 10.01 Omnibus 10.30 Jazz for the Asking 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Country Style 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm New Ideas 12.35 Tales from Wales 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours, News Summary and Financial News 1.30 Development '90 2.00 News Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: The Way of all Flesh 2.45 Business Matters 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Poems by Post 3.30 And Now in Colour 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 The World Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Assignment 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 The Compleat Collins 9.45 Recording of the Week 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Commentary 11.10 Financial News 11.15 Good Books 11.30 Multitrack 2 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am And Now in Colour 1.01 Outlook 1.25 Financial News 1.30 Waveguide 1.40 Book Choice 1.45 The Farming World 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK 2.30 Assignment 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 Heute 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

Major backs Sunday shop law reform

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Major yesterday gave his backing to a fresh attempt to change the Sunday trading laws. Two days after many leading retailers opened illegally for Christmas shopping, the prime minister branded the laws as bizarre and urged Sunday observance campaigners and retailers to thrash out a compromise.

He made plain that he favoured a system similar to Scotland's which allows unrestricted trading. He said it had not ruined the special significance of Sunday. Mr Major was clearly signalling that if a deal could be reached the government would be prepared to bring legislation before the Commons again.

Without agreement, however, it remains unlikely that ministers would rush forward with a bill that would face a difficult passage. Previous attempts to change the antiquated Sunday trading legislation have foundered in the face of an alliance between the churches and the trade unions. Four years ago the government's last attempt to reform the laws failed when more than 70 Conservative MPs joined with Labour to inflict on Margaret Thatcher her worst parliamentary defeat as prime minister. Since then there have been continued calls for reform, intensified by last weekend's widespread flouting of the law.

Yesterday Mr Major told the Commons that the present law was widely felt to be unsatisfactory. "I can well understand the impatience of MPs over the state of the law. A great deal of the Sunday trading law is bizarre, and the time may well be approaching when the Sunday observance lobby should sit down with the retail trade and see whether an acceptable compromise can be reached.Scotland operates an acceptable law which has not wrecked the special significance of Sunday. I would welcome one in England too." Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, said that there was a huge demand for reform from shoppers and traders.

The shopworkers' union, Usdaw, has applied to the High Court for injunctions to prevent shops opening illegally on Sundays.

Last night Labour MPs voiced anger that Mr Major had not criticised the shops which opened. Audrey Wise, MP for Preston, who is sponsored by Usdaw, said: "He completely failed to condemn the law-breakers. It was almost an incitement to them to do it again next Sunday. This is an outrage."

Meanwhile, Usdaw said some of the biggest high street chain stores had pledged not to join the thousands defying Sunday trading laws.

JOHN PAUL

Glen of gloom: the Blanchards exercising their dogs, Jake and Drew, overlooking Glen Garry, possible site of an Admiralty project

Giant radio plan sparks health fears

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

MIKE and Jane Blanchard left for a new life deep in the Scottish Highlands to get away from the bustle and pollution of London. They had found Glen Garry, a hauntingly beautiful place around an hour's drive west of Inverness, on honeymoon five years ago, and moved to Greenfield, near Invergarry.

But their home stands at the apex of a proposed military development by the navy to signal submerged submarines.

The project, around 20 miles of parallel cables at or just below the surface, would be Britain's first Extremely Low Frequency transmitter. Huge power sources turn the earth into a vast antenna that transmits radio waves with giant wavelengths which can link up with submarines below ice caps. Preliminary plans call for cables running south of Greenfield to Glenn Cia-Aig ending at Achnacarry, said Malcolm Spaven, formerly of the disarmament and armament information service at Sussex University and now of Edinburgh University.

The easterly leg extends parallel with Loch Garry heading out towards Invergarry village.

The navy has been attracted by Glen Garry's geology, which is of extremely low conductivity and high electrical resistance.

The Blanchards, and Bill Waugh, a local yachstman who has been gathering information on the scheme, are concerned about possible links between such transmitters and human and animal health risks. "You think you have left behind the pollution of the big city only to be confronted with this," said Mr Blanchard, a master craftsman and owner of the Building Restoration Company, whose wife is an interior designer.

Evidence of possible risks comes from the United States where two similar systems operate in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Robert Adey, professor of neurology at Loma Linda university school of medicine, California, and chief of research at the Veterans' Administration Medical Centre, said the systems were being increasingly linked with cancers, brain tumours, and imbalances in body rhythms and brain hormones.

A spokesman for the Admiralty Research Establishment, near Portsmouth, said yesterday that "no decision has been taken" on the Scottish installation and the results of an environmental study being undertaken by Fairhurst, a firm of consulting engineers from Newcastle, are awaited.

Key findings from a report, drafted by the United States's Environmental Protection Agency have been surpressed by the military and the White House, it is claimed. Details of the unexpurgated report have however been leaked to *Microwave News*, a New York-based newsletter, revealing that the agency's sharpest criticism is aimed at Exremely Low Frequency systems. Dan Plesch of the British American Security Information Council in London believes the Navy wants the system to communicate with Trident submarines.

Prince of Wales to boost morale of British troops in Gulf force

Continued from page 1

the Iraqi leader said that Mr Aziz would not go to the United States to get directives.

"If Bush is to repeat the UN resolutions to us, then there's no point in going there. Any Iraqi concession on Kuwait is out of the question before the Palestinian problem is solved," President Saddam said.

The growing risk of conflict yesterday strengthened the case for reducing the 16-strong staff of Britain's embassy in Baghdad, but the diplomats are understood to be reluctant to leave until the British community there has been whittled down further.

The embassy will today press the Iraqi authorities to grant exit visas to employees of three British companies who have been told that they cannot go. It is thought that about 40 of the 60 remaining Britons would leave if they could.

When the prince travels to the region, he will be the most senior public figure to have visited the British contingent of the multinational force in Saudi Arabia. Last month, President Bush visted American troops and shared with them a Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Today, the Princess of Wales will be in Germany, visiting an army and an RAF base which had send reinforcements to the Gulf. Members of the royal family do not normally visit British forces abroad just before Christmas, and none of the regiments, of which the prince is colonel-in-chief, are currently deployed in the Middle East. However, in recent months they have made a particular point of visiting units involved in the Gulf build-up.

In September, the Duke of York, colonel-in-chief of the Staffordshires, visited his regiment in Germany before they were dispatched to Saudi Arabia.

During her first visit to the unified Germany last month, the Queen visted RAF Laarbruck to see Tornados being prepared for Gulf duty.

The Princess of Wales has recently visited both the headquarters of the Gulf Support Group and the Foreign Office emergency centre in London to meet hostages who have been released from Kuwait.

Political sketch

A question of the Royal Sir Denis

MR SPEAKER was an awful spoilsport yesterday afternoon. He stopped Joyce Quin (Lab, Gateshead E) from asking the best question anyone has yet devised, for putting our all-singing, all-dancing, showerproof, windproof, unbreakable, tasteless, odourless, non-sexist, non-toxic, non-irritant and non-flammable, additive-free and without artificial colouring, organically produced, ozone-friendly, home-grown, free-range, lead-free, aerodynamically designed and *totally* classless prime minister on the spot.

"Can the prime minister explain," Ms Quin started to ask of Mr Major, how he squared his call for a "classless Britain" with the "creation of an hereditary baronetcy for ..."

But before you could say Jack Robinson, let alone "Sir Denis Thatcher, Bt," Mr Killjoy Speaker leapt in with the boring reminder that it is an absolute rule that the House does not debate these Palace matters. "Try a different tack," he said to the intrepid Ms Quin.

She tried the same tack, a second time. A second time the Speaker cut her short. "We do not," he barked, "bring the royal family into our discussions." Several MPs, unaware that the Thatchers were now to be described in this way, howled. But it was no good. Ms Quin was not given a third bite at the Rt Hon cherry, and had to sit down. Mr Major darted nimbly to the safety of question two.

Having been such a fearful sourpuss over a Labour MP's question, Mr Speaker may have felt he was now obliged to spoil a Tory one as well. But what a tragedy that it was Sir Marcus Fox (C, Shipley) whom he decided to trip, just at the point when the venerable Sir Marcus, steeped in the honours of a lifetime's service to the community and suffocated by virtue, had decided to make a run for it and embrace crime.

"Setting aside the argument," began the bold Sir Marcus, "that shops should obey the law ..."

And, before you could say "B & Q," let alone "Sunday opening," in rushed Mr Wet Blanket Weatherill. "Perhaps that was not a very good start," he snapped, inviting Sir Marcus to rejoin us all, this side of the law. Sir Marcus rephrased, but all the fun was gone.

Not many minutes later, Denis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) brought us back to baronetcies. The PM, doing a passable impression at the dispatch box of a non-allergenic soft toy, had been telling us all about his trip to Europe, and how nice everyone was, and how nice he was, and how, with any luck, peace and harmony would be breaking out all over the continent by Christmas. Never was a prime minister more obviously cast in the role of first shepherd, smiling over the manger, in a Westminster nativity play. "*Boring!*" opposition MPs had shouted as he sat down; and each of us secretly yearned for the return of Queen Herod, still sulking in Dulwich.

All these Euro-tidings were too much for Mr Skinner, for whom comfort and joy are dirty words and good will is not considered a pit-head political asset. His "question" started more as a growl than an enquiry. From the growl, phrases began to emerge, distinguishable amidst the Derbyshire dialect. "... All these so-called treaties ... usually ended up in the dustbin ... the British people don't want a "European bank," run by Germans ..."

"... And I'll tell you this. Herr von Baron Strausshauser will never stand for Labour in Derbyshire ..." (*uproar; cries of* "hear, hear!", "shame!")

Neil Kinnock, who as number 2 shepherd had just delivered his own small gift at the Euro-manger but was having trouble getting the angels behind him to sing in chorus, gave the sort of teeth-grinding grin that will be recognised by any parent who has watched as their infant Joseph stamps his tiny sandalled foot and refuses to adore the plastic doll in swaddling clothes.

"... And *that*," rapped Skinner, "'ll be the end of *that*!"

Matthew Parris

De Klerk warns militants

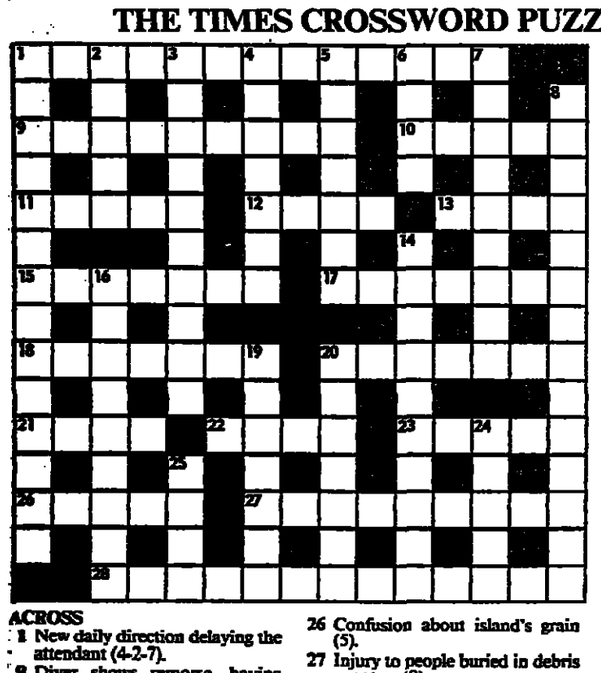
From Gavin Bell in Johannesburg

PRESIDENT de Klerk has severely censured the African National Congress for reverting to "outmoded revolutionary doctrines" which were inciting conflict, and warned that his government would not bow to radical pressure.

Clearly angered by militant resolutions at a weekend ANC conference, Mr de Klerk said in a televised speech last night that mass demonstrations to force political concessions could lead to violence, and were unacceptable. Referring to the ANC's call for "mass action for the transfer of power to the people", he said: "Some of those involved imagine that they can dictate the future of South Africa by inflamatory mass mobilisation. That is the road to disaster."

Mr de Klerk made no specific reference to the ANC ultimatum for the prompt release of political prisoners, the repatriation of exiles, the repeal of apartheid legislation, and an end to political trials. But he firmly rejected the strategy behind it, and called for constructive and peaceful negotiations.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,481



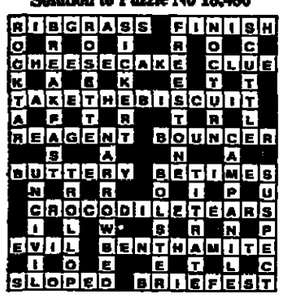
ACROSS

1 New daily direction delaying the attendant (4-2-7).
9 Diver shows remorse, having eaten most of the fruit (9).
10 Accomplished politician's first message (5).
11 Leaders of Territorial division crossing very small river (5).
12 Eastern drama – jolly type (4).
13 Temptation to persecute (4).
15 Cancel appearance of University students if in New York (7).
17 Great conductor from West – eccentric sort (7).
18 Filthy Lebanese extremists in a French prison (7).
20 Cockney's horse apt to be put out to grass (7).
21 Nobody leaves to seek an assignment (4).
22 Mole's equal, by the sound of it (4).
23 In the kitchen it really replaces salt (5).
26 Confusion about island's grain (5).
27 Injury to people buried in debris – not us (9).
28 Minister to whom one may dictate domestically? (4,9).

DOWN

1 Sunset in London, when the weed comes out? (8-2,4).
2 Plunge right in, showing energy (5).
3 Divides all constituents, being imprudent (3-7).
4 Like 1 *ac*, for instance, in a sickly way holding up the doctor (7).
5 Temporary one taken in – not in the holidays (7).
6 Island feature with halves transposed (4).
7 Rock used for royal place of worship after great uprising (9).
8 Ostracised guard hugs child disturbed by witches (4,2,8).
14 Meandering old player in the Orient (10).
16 Sound philosopher's allegory, say, of one mocked by love? (9).
19 Nymphs in French art supporting the ailing Diana (7).
20 Unpredictable creature disrupting rice production (7).
24 He enters the races with a character from Marathon (5).
25 Hard wood for the steering apparatus (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,480



Concise crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

TOMAN
a. An Indian chief
b. Ten thousand
c. The tomato mango

DAPSONE
a. A velvet velours
b. A pig/sheep cross
c. A leprosy drug

POLLEX
a. Poll tax legislation
b. The thumb
c. Fallen dandruff

ENOMOTY
a. A Spartan band
b. Surgery
c. The scented spindle

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.).731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. ..733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23- M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Southern and eastern England will be cloudy with wintry showers spreading from the North-West. Most places becoming dry in the evening. Cloudy at first in the South-West and south Wales, brightening later with a few showers. The rest of England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have generally broken cloud and wintry showers. Scotland will have sunny spells with wintry showers. Outlook: mainly dry in the South, cloudy with outbreaks of rain in the North.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: b=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	f	Majorca	12	54	f
Akrotiri	20	68	s	Malaga	17	63	f
Alex'dria	21	70	f	Malta	15	59	s
Amst'dam	0	32	c	Melb'rne	19	66	f
Athens	16	61	c	Mexico C*	21	70	s
Barbados*	29	84	s	Miami*	26	79	s
Barcelona	8	46	f	Milan	3	37	f
Belgrade	2	36	sn	Montreal*	-4	25	s
Berlin	-1	30	c	Moscow	-7	19	f
Bermuda*	20	68	r	Munich	-4	25	f
Biarritz	6	43	s	Nairobi	24	75	c
Bordeaux	2	36	c	Naples	11	52	c
Brussels	-1	30	c	N York*	7	45	s
Budapest	1	34	sn	Nice	8	46	f
B Aires*	22	72	r	Oslo	2	36	c
Cairo	21	70	s	Paris	1	34	c
Cape Tn	17	63	c	Peking	6	43	s
C'blanca	15	59	c	Perth			
Chicago*	3	37	r	(aus)	23	73	s
Ch'church	20	68	s	Prague	-1	30	c
Cologne	0	32	sn	Reykjavik	-3	27	sn
C'phagn	0	32	c	Rhodes	17	63	s
Corfu	12	54	f	Rio de J	31	88	s
Dublin	3	37	c	Riyadh	21	70	c
Dubrovnik	9	48	f	Rome	8	46	f
Faro	15	59	c	Salzburg	-4	25	c
Florence	8	46	s	S F'risco*	9	48	s
Frankfurt	0	32	sn	Santiago*	28	82	s
Funchal	16	61	r	S Paulo*	27	81	c
Geneva	0	32	c	Seoul	2	36	s
Gibraltar	14	57	c	Sing'por	31	88	t
Helsinki	0	32	sn	St'mohm	0	32	sn
Hong K	22	72	s	Strasb'rg	1	34	c
Innsbruck	-2	28	s	Sydney	37	99	s
Istanbul	12	54	f	Tangier	16	61	f
Jeddah	31	88	c	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Jo'berg*	26	79	s	Tenerife	19	66	f
Karachi	21	70	s	Tokyo	10	50	s
L Palmas	20	68	f	Toronto*	2	36	c
Le Tignet	1	34	c	Tunis	14	57	s
Lisbon	10	50	c	Valencia	9	48	c
Locarno	1	34	c	Vanc'ver*	5	41	r
L Angeles*	13	55	s	Venice	5	41	f
Luxembg	-2	28	c	Vienna	0	32	sn
Luxor	25	77	s	Warsaw	-1	30	c
Madrid	8	46	s	Wash'ton*	7	45	f
				Wel'ngton	20	68	s
				Zurich	-3	27	f

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.1	-	5	41	bright
Anglesey	2.5	-	4	39	sunny
Belfast	0.6	03	4	39	rain
Birmingham	-	-	2	36	dull
Blackpool	1.0	-	3	37	bright
Bournemouth	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Brighton	-	-	2	36	cloudy
Bristol	0.6	-	4	39	cloudy
Buxton	-	-	1	34	dull
Cardiff	0.1	-	2	36	dull
Cromer	-	.02	6	43	shower
Douglas	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Edinburgh	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Exmouth	-	-	3	37	dull
Falmouth	-	-	4	39	dull
Folkestone	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Guernsey	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Hastings	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Hunstanton	-	.04	5	41	shower
Jersey	3.9	-	4	39	bright
Kinloss	1.7	-	7	45	dull
Lerwick	0.7	.02	7	45	drizzle
London	-	-	5	41	dull
Lowestoft	-	.02	5	41	dull
Manchester	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Minehead	-	.01	2	36	dull
Morecambe	-	-	4	39	dull
Nottingham	-	-	3	37	dull
Penzance	-	-	5	41	dull
Scarborough	0.5	-	5	41	bright
Scilly Isles	-	-	6	43	drizzle
Southend	-	-	4	39	cloudy
St. Ives	-	-	5	41	dull
Stornoway	-	.02	9	48	rain
Tenby	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Tiree	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Torquay	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Weymouth	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Wick	0.2	-	7	45	drizzle

These are Monday's figures

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex 702
Dorset,Hants & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms 705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon 706
Beds,Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent .709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincs & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N W England 716
W & S Yorks & Dales 717
N E England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edn S Fife/Lothian & Borders 722
E Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland ...726
N Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 3C (37F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F). Humidity: 6 pm, 82 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,021 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Lisburn, near Belfast, 0.08 in; highest sunshine, Colwyn Bay, North Wales, 4.4 hrs.

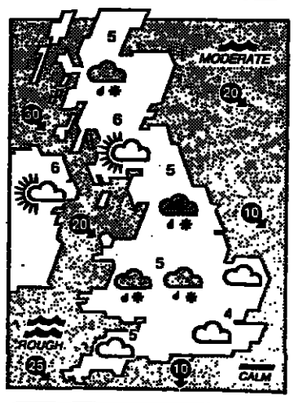
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 3C (37F); min 6 pm to 6 am,1C (34F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4hr.

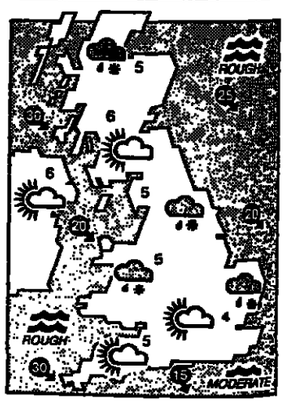
GLASGOW

Yesterday/Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 3C (37F); min 6 pm to 6 am,1C (34F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 3.53 pm to 8.03 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.13 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.42 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.22 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.18 am

Sun rises: 8.03 am
Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon rises 9.48 am
Moon sets 6.00 pm

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	3	37	c	Guernsey	2	36	sn
B'mgham	2	36	c	Inverness	4	39	s
Blackpool	2	36	r	Jersey	3	37	c
Bristol	3	37	c	London	1	34	sn
Cardiff	1	34	sl	M'nchester	1	34	c
Edinburgh	2	36	c	Newcastle	3	37	r
Glasgow	3	37	c	R'nldswmy	5	41	c

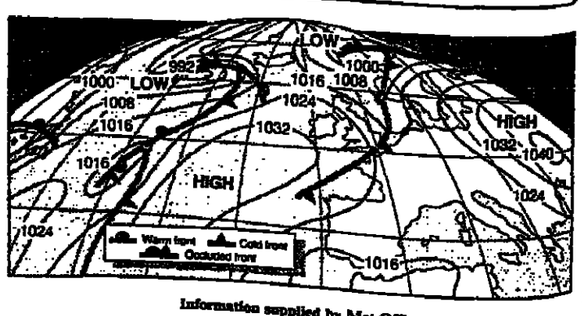
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.48	6.8	3.12	6.7
Aberdeen	2.27	3.9	2.22	4.2
Avonmouth	8.19	12.2	8.34	11.9
Belfast			12.07	3.5
Cardiff	8.04	11.3	8.19	11.1
Devonport	6.52	5.4	7.12	5.1
Dover			12.10	6.1
Falmouth	6.22	5.2	6.42	4.9
Glasgow	1.43	4.2	2.04	4.7
Harwich	12.39	3.7	1.03	3.7
Holyhead	11.25	5.4	11.47	5.0
Hull	7.27	6.7	7.30	7.0
Ilfracombe	6.59	8.7	7.14	8.4
King's Lynn	7.34	6.0	7.38	6.4
Leith	3.43	5.1	3.50	5.2

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	12.04	8.6	12.18	8.9
Lowestoft	10.48	2.2	10.31	2.5
Margate	12.48	4.6	1.19	4.5
Milford Haven	7.20	6.6	7.35	6.3
Newquay	6.10	6.6	6.25	6.3
Oban	6.49	3.9	7.00	3.7
Penzance	5.50	5.5	6.12	5.2
Portland	7.58	2.0	8.17	1.8
Portsmouth	12.31	4.5	12.32	4.5
Shoreham	12.05	5.6	12.06	5.6
Southampton	11.53	4.3		
Swansea	7.27	8.9	7.42	8.6
Tees	4.45	4.9	4.52	5.1
W'ton-on-Nze	12.32	3.9	12.57	3.9

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Murdoch leaves Reuters board

RUPERT Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, has resigned from the board of Reuters Holdings due to other business commitments.

Mr Murdoch has been a director of Reuters Holdings and previously Reuters Limited since 1979. His departure was expected.

Andrew Knight, executive chairman of News International, the British subsidiary of News Corp, has been a director of Reuters Holdings for the past two years. The News Corporation, which owns *The Times*, once had an interest of more than 10 per cent in Reuters, but this has fallen to about two per cent.

Sir Christopher Hogg and Glen Renfrew, respectively chairman and chief executive of Reuters, said Mr Murdoch had made an outstanding contribution to the success and growth of Reuters.

GGT falls 36%

Gold Greenlees Trott, the advertising and marketing services group which issued a profit warning in September, suffered a 36 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £2.24 million during the half year to end-October. Earnings fell 42 per cent to 8.62p a share but the interim dividend is unchanged at 3.30p. The company intends to maintain the total dividend for the year at 8.3p. Tempus, page 23

Yorkshire TV up

Yorkshire Television reports pre-tax profits of £18.4 million for the year ended September, against £18 million in the previous year. The final dividend is 8.7p a share, making 12p for the year against 11.3p last time. Tempus, page 23

Shares halted

Shares in Amalgamated Financial Investments have been suspended at 4p at the request of the company "pending clarification of its financial position". Neither the company nor its brokers and financial advisers would comment further. In August, the company announced £2.8 million pre-tax losses for the year to end-March.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9350 (+0.0060)
German mark
2.8721 (+0.0046)
Exchange index
93.3 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1694.2 (+4.0)
FT-SE 100
1[illegible]51.8 (+3.9)
Dow Jones
2611.14 (+17.82)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
24424.02 (+336.11)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 14 1/32-14%
3-month eligible bills: 13 1/4-13 3/16%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 15/16%*
3-month Treasury Bills 6.72-6.71%*
30-year bonds 106 7/16-106 1/2*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9350	£: $1.9350*
£: DM2.8721	$: DM1.4840*
£: SwFr2.4584	$: SwFr1.2700*
£: FFr9.7746	$: FFr5.0550*
£: Yen257.35	$: Yen133.25*
£: Index 93.3	$: Index 60.8
ECU £0.709767	SDR £0.740507
£: ECU1.408913	£: SDR1.350426

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $378.00 pm-$377.40
close $376.90-377.40 (£194.95-195.45)
New York:
Comex $376.75-377.25*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ..... $27.10 bbl ($27.10)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.555	2.435
Austria Sch	21.25	19.85
Belgium Fr	62.30	58.30
Canada $	2.355	2.205
Denmark Kr	11.60	10.90
Finland Mkk	7.32	6.87
France Fr	10.18	9.58
Germany Dm	3.01	2.82
Greece Dr	320	300
Hong Kong $	15.58	14.78
Ireland Pt	1.131	1.061
Italy Lira	2270	2130
Japan Yen	271.50	255.50
Netherlands Gld	3.38	3.17
Norway Kr	11.76	11.06
Portugal Esc	268	250
South Africa Rd	5.20	4.70
Spain Pta	190.75	178.75
Sweden Kr	11.31	10.63
Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.41
Turkey Lira	5900	5400
USA $	2.025	1.905
Yugoslavia Dnr	27.50	20.50

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.3 (October)

US trade gap widest for three years

By Colin Narbrough and Susan Ellicott

THE American trade deficit widened sharply in October to $11.6 billion as tensions in the Gulf pushed up the price of oil and imports of cars surged unexpectedly, commerce department figures showed. The monthly deficit was the biggest for almost three years.

News of the deterioration in the trade balance, which emerged despite the weak dollar and fears of recession, was partly offset by figures showing a slowdown in inflation.

The consumer price index rose 0.3 per cent in November, after an 0.6 per cent rise the previous month, providing the first downturn since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait sent energy prices rocketing in August. The improved inflation picture should increase the Federal Reserve Board's scope for lowering interest rates.

The October merchandise trade deficit, which followed a $9.3 billion deficit in September, showed record imports and exports. Wall Street forecasters had expected a largely unchanged deficit in October. The trade data can be erratic from month to month.

Much of the deterioration was attributed to a 17 per cent jump in America's oil imports to $7.2 billion in October, its highest monthly level since early 1981. Volume oil imports, however, fell slightly.

But non-oil imports rose across a broad front, boosting the overall import bill by more than 12 per cent to $46.4 billion.

Cars were a main factor, rising 39 per cent, but there were increases in materials for industry and capital goods.

Exports, regarded by economists as the silver lining in the October data, advanced 8.6 per cent to $34.8 billion on the back of the decline in the dollar, but with recession looming in key markets overseas, economists fear that momentum may be lost in coming months.

For the first ten months of this year, the deficit showed an annualised rise of $103 billion, about $6.5 billion below last year's shortfall.

The seasonally-adjusted increase in the consumer price index in November brought the rise in prices during the first 11 months to an annualised 6.4 per cent.

Gerald Holtham, an international economist at Shearson Lehman Brothers, saw the figures as encouraging. He said they pointed to current inflation running at an annualised 3 to 4 per cent. Wage growth was also slowing, he noted.

Energy prices rose 0.5 per cent in November, easing after the large upward movements of previous months. Even with an end of the year moderation, inflation this year is still likely to be the worst since 1981.

In Britain, Treasury figures showed a public sector borrowing requirement of £1.3 billion last month, well above City forecasts. This increased the market's conviction that the government's target of a £3 billion budget surplus will be difficult to achieve.

The higher-than-expected borrowing last month was largely blamed on the continued difficulty that local authorities are having in collecting the poll tax. This in turn placed more demands on central government spending.

The cumulative total for the first eight months is a borrowing requirement of £4.5 billion, compared with a surplus of £2.9 billion at the same time last year.

However, traditionally high receipt months are still to come, as too are the proceeds of the privatisation of the electricity companies.

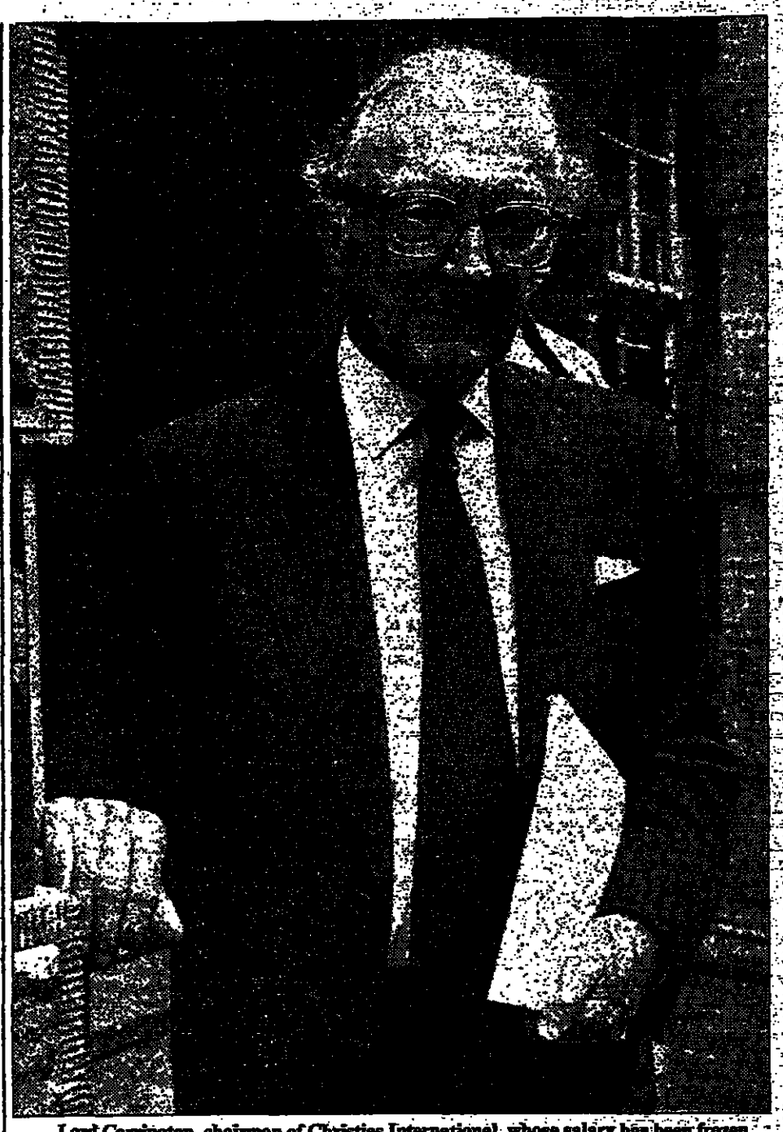
Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, said the deterioration in government finances suggested little room for manoeuvre on the tax front in the next budget.

He expects the budget surplus to dwindle to about £1 billion, or possibly zero this year, with a return to a borrowing requirement in the next fiscal year.

Uncertainty about the Gulf situation could also inflict unexpected damage on government finances this year beyond the £1 billion earmarked for extra military spending.

March gilt futures ended ⅝ of a point lower on the strength of the borrowing requirement data.

Comment, page 23



Lord Carrington, chairman of Christies International, whose salary has been frozen

Christies freezes salaries as sales decline

By Colin Campbell

LORD Carrington, the chairman, and all other directors of Christies International, the auction house, are having their fees frozen, possibly for the next 12 months, as part of a "prompt action" programme to reduce costs.

Christies yesterday said it was making 145 people redundant throughout its worldwide operations, 65 of whom will be in London, in a move to save up to £4 million, or 10 per cent, of staff costs.

Last week, Sotheby's Holdings, the rival fine arts house, said it was closing two British branches and making 80 staff redundant.

Christopher Davidge, the Christies' managing director, said in "reading the tea leaves" of near term prospects of the art market as a whole, it had been necessary to implement immediate cost-cutting.

Sales by Christies in its autumn season had fallen 50 per cent from a record £675 million in 1989 to £334 million. The number of works of art sold for over $1 million each was 54 compared with 115 in the same season last year.

"While medium to long term prospects for auction markets are encouraging, the reality today is that Britain, Japan and America are in the grip of economic uncertainty which has been intensified by the situation in the Gulf," Lord Carrington said.

On the International Stock Exchange, Christies shares initially fell 19p to 148p, before recouping part of the slide to 159p, down 8p.

After reporting interim pre-tax profits of £40 million, the market had been expecting 1990 profits in the year to December 31 in the mid-£60 million region, compared with actual 1989 pre-tax profits of £66.9 million.

Analysts are now looking for profits of between £45 million and £50 million.

The setback in Christies' share price turned the investment spotlight on Michael Ashcroft's ADT Group, holder of 24 per cent of Christies' equity.

ADT's shares were 2p easier at 113p, but based on ADT's average purchase price, at between 300p and 305p, is thought currently to be showing a £60 million paper loss on its holding in Christies.

Comment, page 23

Nadir stays in custody as £3.5m bail not met

By Matthew Bond

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck, has spent a fourth night in custody, after his associates failed to come up with the record £3.5 million bail that would have secured his release.

Friends, members of his family and an entourage of lawyers spent a busy afternoon in the foyer of Bow Street magistrates' court first arranging and then waiting for written confirmation that a £2 million cash deposit was now being held in client accounts at two firms of solicitors.

One letter, believed to be from SJ Berwin, did arrive. But by the 5.00pm deadline, a second letter expected from Mr Nadir's other lawyer, Vizards, had not arrived. SJ Berwin is expected to hold £1.5 million of the deposit, with Vizards holding the rest.

Just after 5.00pm, Edward Jenkins, Mr Nadir's counsel, and Martin Lewis, solicitor, left Bow Street stern-faced and refusing to comment. It was left to Bulent Djan, who described himself as "an admirer" of Mr Nadir, to confirm that the Polly Peck chairman faced another night in prison. "They missed the deadline by a matter of minutes," said Mr Djan, who had been involved in telephone negotiations all afternoon.

Mr Nadir has been in custody since Saturday, when he was arrested at Heathrow airport after his return from Cyprus. He faces 18 charges of theft and false accounting amounting to more than £25 million. More charges are expected. He is scheduled to appear in court on January 28.

Mr Nadir could be released on bail today. Shortly before the deadline ran out Mr Jenkins said: "We have got the money. It is simply a question of paper work."

In the afternoon, after a 15 minute hearing, Mr Nadir's camp had been optimistic that he would be released. Their hopes were raised after Ramadan Guney, a north London businessman and a distant relative of Mr Nadir, pledged surety of £1 million. Mr Guney's £1 million meant that the £1.5 million of sureties required by the court was in place. On Monday, Ayesha Nadir, Mr Nadir's ex-wife, pledged £500,000.

Mr Guney told Sir David Hopkin, the chief stipendiary magistrate, that he was the owner of the largest cemetery in Europe, the 460 acre Brookwood cemetery, near Woking, Surrey. He said he had recently received an offer of £8 million for it.

That left Mr Nadir's release dependent on confirmation that the £2 million was held on deposit. Sir David told Mr Nadir's counsel: "As soon as your solicitor has informed the chief clerk by letter that they hold the sum a letter will be sent to the prison governor to release your client."

The size of the deposit was suggested by Mr Jenkins in court on Monday. Raising it had, therefore, been expected to be a relative formality.

Despite the midday hearing being postponed to 3.00pm, Mr Jenkins admitted there were technical difficulties in having the monies transferred. "It seems to be that sending £5 anywhere takes longer than sending a parcel of toys," he told the court.

Wessex dividend surprises market

By Graham Searjeant

WESSEX Water, the last of the ten privatised groups to report its six-month results to end-September, surprised the stock market with higher profits and dividend than expected, sending its partly paid shares up 8p to 256p.

The maiden interim dividend of 6.1p per share is 20.3 per cent higher than the notional 1989 interim dividend implied in its prospectus, the highest adjusted rise of the water and sewage groups.

Nicholas Hood, the chairman, said that he did not regard the notional prospectus figure, as a basis for comparison and that the board had set the dividend as a legitimate reward for shareholders

He said that, in cash terms, the dividend was not high relative to other groups. "There has been no dividend race. This was decided weeks before the others announced their dividends," he added.

Wessex kept the rise in its operating costs to 6 per cent, and operating profits increased 26 per cent to £31 million. Turnover rose 13 per cent to £83.5 million, against a 12.2 per cent rise in prices.

Pre-tax profit was £34.9 million against £8.8 million last year before the replacement of debt with cash in the pre-flotation restructuring. Allowing for this, earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 32p.

So far so good, page 23

Building firms offered grants to save training

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

CONSTRUCTION companies are to be offered grants of £500 a time from next month if they take on apprentices from rival building firms that have gone into liquidation.

The move is one of the most extreme examples of the growing concern that training will suffer first as the recession bites, leading to skill shortages and pay problems.

From January 1, the Construction Industry Training Board will make available on a first-come, first-served basis up to 1,000 grants of £500 to companies that have adopted properly-registered apprentices. The grant scheme, an update of a similar system used at the height of the last recession in the early Eighties, is subject to final approval from the employment department.

Under the scheme, a payment of £250 will be made at the start of the adoption period, the rest to follow six months later, provided the apprentice is still in employment and fully apprenticed with the company. The scheme will run for 15 months.

The training board said yesterday that it had taken the step after indications that an increasing number of apprentices are unable to complete their training of up to three and a half years because of the rising number of liquidations in the building industry. Latest estimates suggests that between 750 and 1,000 apprentices will be displaced within the next year.

Government ministers are concerned that companies may trim their training programmes, or are already doing so. While ministers accept that a company's priority is to keep trading, they argue that to abandon training now, as many did in the early Eighties, will lead to problems later.

Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said some companies were thinking of reducing their training, or had started to offer less apprenticeships. He gave warning that companies which did so were jeopardising their futures.

Incomes Data Services, the pay research company, says in its latest pay analysis that "the recession is putting pressure on training budgets, forcing some companies to scale back or eliminate apprentice recruitment". But it also reports some new corporate initiatives aimed at ensuring a supply of skilled labour.

The training board, which is making separate moves to shore up training in construction, had estimated that about 13,000 employer-sponsored people would begin training this year in the industry under the government's Youth Training Scheme. But it now estimates the numbers will be about 11,000. The board is therefore offering 750 sponsored places of its own.

Atomic energy authority unveils bottom-line loss

Banging the drum for nuclear power

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

A CALL for nuclear power to seek to regain political and public confidence was made yesterday by John Maltby, the chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

"Nuclear power now stands at a crossroads," he said. To regain confidence, it must be demonstrated that nuclear power is "safe, environmentally clean, and economic".

A more favourable attitude to nuclear power was emerging around the world, he said. "We hope it will come to this country as well." The government has undertaken to review Britain's nuclear power strategy in 1994.

Mr Maltby issued his rallying call as he unveiled a bottom-line loss by the energy authority during the year to March of £144.2 million. Measured by current cost

The authority achieved an historic cost operating profit of £13.7 million. But it is adjusting from its historic role in developing the technology of Britain's nuclear programme to an environment in which decommissioning plants will be its bread and butter work, and new markets must be found for its skills.

The biggest element of the loss was caused by £116.6 million of exceptional provisions. Of that, £97.2 million has been set aside for early retirement and related costs. The workforce has fallen by 4,000 to just over 10,000 in the past 18 months. Mr Maltby said the main cuts were over but "we expect that to be below 10,000 by the end of this year."

The closure of materials testing reactors Pluto and Dido at the authority's site at Harwell, Oxfordshire, and the early run-down of the steam generating heavy water reactor at Winfrith, Dorset, caused net extraordinary costs of £35.9

the authority's plants, estimated at £3 billion to £4 billion in 1985, will be met by the government. In the wake of the closures, the authority will run a single reactor, the experimental fast-breeder plant at Dounreay in Scotland.

Because of the restructuring costs, the authority failed to meet its government imposed target of a 4 per cent return on revenue. Mr Maltby said the government will change the wording so that in future the return is measured before exceptional charges.

To develop a wider role as a contract research organisation, the authority has reorganised itself into eight principal subsidiaries trading as AEA Technology.

The authority remains keen to build a 400 megawatt power station at Winfrith to demonstrate its Safe Integral Reactor technology, developed in co-operation with Rolls-Royce, the turbine specialist, and ASEA Brown Boveri, the Swedish

Birmingham Mint rejects increased bid from IMI

By JONATHAN PRYNN

IMI, the engineering group, has raised its hostile takeover offer for Birmingham Mint, the coin and medal maker, from 85p to 95p, valuing the target at £13.6 million. But the new offer was rejected by the Birmingham Mint camp.

At the close of business yesterday, IMI controlled 34.7 per cent of Birmingham Mint after going into the market to buy 29.99 per cent of the shares, the maximum it can obtain before the publication of the Office of Fair Trading report into the proposed takeover. Publication is expected this week.

The increased offer was triggered by the purchase of a 15.8 per cent block from Dunedin, the fund manager, which is the largest single shareholder in Birmingham Mint. A further 4.75 per cent acceptances have been received by IMI from Birmingham Mint shareholders. IMI controls 36.39 per cent of the preference shares.

Shares in Birmingham Mint rose 9p to 94p after the announcement of the final improved offer, which represents an exit multiple of 11.9 times Birmingham Mint's forecast 8p earnings for the year to the end of March.

Gary Allen, chief executive of IMI, said the new terms offered a 58 per cent premium to the pre-bid share price "and would provide a significantly better income than the promised dividend". In its defence document, Birmingham pledged to lift the full-year dividend from 5.5p to 6.5p a share.

In announcing the improved offer, IMI attacked Birmingham Mint's "irresponsible" dividend policy and its faliure to produce a profit forecast. "Birmingham Mint has produced a document which includes unconvincing and unsubstantiated arguments about current performance and prospects," Mr Allen said.

IMI plans to combine and introduce new technology to the minting activities of the two companies. "To have two small mints only three miles apart competing in international markets makes no sense," an IMI spokesman said.

However, Birmingham Mint rejected the improved terms as only a "nominal increase" in the offer which "represents a miserable price for a company with a proven recovery potential and excellent growth prospects".

The company says that a merger of the minting operations is against the public interest as it will create a private-sector monopoly.

NFC final bonuses cut

By MARTIN WALLER

THE 33,000 employee shareholders in NFC, the former National Freight Consortium, which made its market debut less than two years ago, will see their year-end bonuses severely cut for the first time since the group's corporate recovery in the early Eighties as it braves the chill winds of recession.

NFC just beat its "best view" or profits forecast of £97 million made in June, with pre-tax profits of £97.7 million, up from £90.2 million, in the 53 weeks to October 6. A final dividend of 1.6p makes a total of 5.65p, a 14 per cent rise, after taking account of last year's rights issue, and earnings per share rose 11 per cent to 13.6p.

The sum set aside for the employees' profit-sharing scheme, one of the planks of the group's recovery under Sir Peter Thompson, retiring chairman, drops from £15.9 million to £5.1 million. The sum is worked out on a formula based on the level of operating profits, which fell 5 per cent to £108.7 million.

Had these profits fallen 10 per cent the employees would have received nothing, James Watson, who takes over as chairman on January 1, said. A 15 per cent rise would have given them more than £15 million to share out. "Perform and you get the major allocation. They understand that," he said.

The actual amount each will receive will be about £150, down from £450 last year.

The outlook for NFC was gloomy, Jack Mather, chief executive, said. "The current year has begun with no real encouragement in sight, either for ourselves or for UK business in general."

Tempus, page 23

PETER TRIEVNOR

Perform for rewards: James Watson yesterday

Burmah stake in Foseco near 30%

By MARTIN BARROW

BURMAH Castrol has increased its holding in Foseco to almost 30 per cent by acquiring 6 per cent in the stock market, including a stake of about 4 per cent from Mercury Asset Management.

Meanwhile, Foseco has stepped up its campaign for support from institutional shareholders in its fight against Burmah's 300p a share bid for the company. During the next 48 hours, meetings will take place with M&G, which holds 10 per cent, and Prudential, with 6.75 per cent. Phillips & Drew Fund Management holds 7.5 per cent and Hill Samuel 4.3 per cent. Foseco claims the support of another 25 per cent.

Burmah's bid, which values the speciality chemicals group at £259 million, closes on Friday. At the first closing date, the original offer of 280p a share attracted acceptances of 1 per cent. Foseco shares yesterday fell 2p to 294p, while those of Burmah fell 8p to 505p.

Despite Burmah's position, analysts believe the contest is finely balanced as institutions assess whether to accept the cash bid or support the programme of disposals and a share buyback scheme proposed by Tom Long, the chairman of Foseco, in the company's defence.

Foseco proposes to sell interests in construction chemicals and abrasives to raise about £150 million to finance the buy-in of 30 million shares, more than half the issued share capital, at 300p via a scheme of arrangement which would require the approval of shareholders.

Burmah has not said whether it would approve the scheme in respect of its own shareholding. Non-tax paying funds that accept Foseco's offer would be entitled to an advanced corporation tax credit of 65p a share.

If all disposals are completed, Foseco will be left with its core metallurgical businesses and interests in diamond products, which will generate trading profits of £33 million on sales of £381 million in the current year, according to the company's defence document.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Devenish wholesaling side sold for £15m

JA DEVENISH, the West Country brewer, has sold its Canonbury beer, wine and spirits wholesaling business for £15 million in a management buyout. The brewer will retain 30 per cent and another 19.9 per cent will be held by Swiss Bank Corporation.

Devenish intends to concentrate on its public houses and is considering the future of its brewing operations. The Canonbury buyout is being led by David Fisher, a former marketing director of the Dee Corporation and a director of the Ashley Group, who comes in as chairman and chief executive. Devenish is making a loan facility of up to £1.75

Carpet firm's profits decline

PRE-TAX profits at Victoria Carpet Holdings fell from £1.08 million to £867,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover fell from £19.4 million to £18.3 million, with the downturn blamed on difficult conditions. Earnings per share slipped from 10.93p to 8.15p. There is no interim dividend, but a dividend is expected at year-end.

Levercrest in £23,000 loss

LEVERCREST, the USM-listed maker of playground equipment and safety surfaces, achieved an 81 per cent advance in turnover to £3.08 million in the six months to end-September, although the company made a pre-tax loss of £23,000, against a profit of £1,000 last time. There is a 0.32p loss per share (0.03p earnings) and no interim dividend.

CHI cuts dividend

PRE-TAX profits at CHI Industrials, the mini-conglomerate, dived from £7.3 million to £334,000 during the half-year to end-September after exceptional costs of £408,000 for restructuring. Sales advanced £5.2 million to £121.5 million.

Tim Hearley, executive chairman, said profits were hit by slumps in the markets for office and household products, automotive and mass transit equipment, and property, and by higher finance charges. The company is cutting capital spending to match depreciation. The interim dividend was reduced from 1.2p to 0.3p. CHI shares fell 7p to 16p.

Westpool up to £4.17m

WESTPOOL Investment Trust, the investment holding company, lifted pre-tax profits from £2.76 million to £4.17 million in the half year to end-September. Gross income advanced from £2.93 million to £4.4 million. Earnings per share rise from 2.55p to 3.77p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.35p. There was an extraordinary profit of £98,000.

Faupel slips at half time

FAUPEL Trading Group, the textile to clothing importer, made pre-tax profits of £609,000 (£732,000) in the six months to end-September. Turnover grew to £8.89 million (£8.32 million), with operating profits at £1.05 million (£1.03 million). Earnings are 5.03p (6.21p) per share and the interim dividend stays at 1.85p. The shares fell 2p to 58p.

Dip at GW Thornton

GW THORNTON, the Unlisted Securities Market engineer and maker of precision instruments for aerospace and medical markets, made pre-tax profits of £1.35 million against £1.42 million for the year to September on unchanged sales of £20.3 million. Earnings per share fell to 13p (13.7p).

The group made an extraordinary profit of £4.34 million from the sale of its business services division and is paying a special dividend of 33.75p a share in February on top of an unchanged final dividend of 2.75p, which makes 4.75p for the year with the unchanged 2p interim payout.

Triplex wins £4m order from army

By COLIN CAMPBELL

TRIPLEX Lloyd, the industrial engineer, has won a £4 million contract to supply the British Army with 200,000 bayonets, James Doel, the chairman, said in announcing reduced interim pre-tax profits.

The bayonet order is likely to be used for ceremonial purposes, although the weapons could be used in war.

While operating profits from continuing operations rose marginally in the six months ended September, reduced property profits saw group pre-tax profit slip from £5.1 million to £4.2 million on a turnover of £102.2 million.

The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p a share.

Mr Doel said there had been a 10 per cent reduction in the payroll and that further redundancies were planned. Gearing was 50 per cent, and the year-end target of 35 per cent was still feasible.

He added: "Despite adverse conditions, the group's sales and order books have proved resilient."

The three forces at play, and those which will determine progress, were demand patterns, which ranged between patchy and strong, high interest rates and a squeeze on margins.

Events in the Gulf have, however, cast a shadow over the British market and the market economies of the world, making the economic outlook uncertain, Mr Doel said. The shares responded with a fall of 2p to 93p.

McDonnell Douglas shares drop

MORE than $38 million was wiped off the stock market value of McDonnell Douglas after it was disclosed that an American government audit report said the plane maker had fallen into weak financial condition (Philip Robinson writes).

According to a report of the audit, McDonnell, America's largest defence contractor, and General Dynamics, the No. 3, had a chance of bankruptcy. McDonnell's shares dropped $1 to $42.875, but General Dynamics added 25 cents to $26.

J&S payout cut

Jones & Shipman, maker of precision metalworking machines, has cut its interim dividend after pre-tax profits slipped from £645,000 to £400,000 in the six months to end-September, despite turnover ahead from £11.1 million to £12 million. Earnings fell to 1.7p (3.2p), the interim dividend to 1p (1.5p).

Amer chief to go

Heikki Salonen, chairman and chief executive of Amer, the Finnish consumer products group listed in London, has resigned effective February 28, the end of the financial year.

Castletown down

Castletown Press, the Irish printer and stationer, saw pre-tax profits decline from Ir£122,420 to Ir£114,130 (£105,676) for the six months to end-October. Turnover increased from Ir£657,024 to Ir£1.4 million. Earnings fell to 3.37p (3.58p). Interim dividend is 1.26p, up 12 per cent.

Adverts slump hits Midlands Radio

By PHILIP PANGALOS

MIDLANDS Radio, the independent radio broadcasting group, has seen pre-tax profits drop from £2.11 million to £1.65 million in the year to end-September.

The group, which has four franchises and seven radio stations transmitting to 4.4 million adults in the Midlands area, came to the market in February and was expected to achieve full-year profits of £2.6 million. The company blamed the shortfall on the decline in advertising revenue.

Turnover climbed from £10.6 million to £10.7 million after an increase in sponsorship revenue and a 4.5 per cent rise in local air-time sales. IBA primary rental dropped from £447,000 to £357,000.

Ron Coles, managing director, said: "Advertising revenue has not been as strong as we had hoped." He said that more listeners were tuning in, and the group has a 44 per cent weekly reach of the Midlands radio market, against 43 per cent previously.

Mr Coles said: "Local sales are holding up well, although national sales are still disappointing." National revenue declined by 7.7 per cent.

Earnings slip from 9.89p to 7.95p. The final dividend is 2p, making an unchanged 4.5p. There was an exceptional cost of £92,000, relating to redundancy costs. Flotation expenses resulted in an extraordinary loss of £421,000. The shares firmed 2p to 106p.

Braithwaite holds dividend after fall

By MARTIN BARROW

BRAITHWAITE, the industrial services company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.4p a share after reporting a £600,000 fall in pre-tax profits to £2 million for the six months to the end of September. Earnings were 6.8p per share, against 9.6p.

Turnover of £31.09 million compared with £33.22 million last time, which included £4.7 million from Godiva, the pumps distributor, sold in September 1989. Andrew Sykes, the group's core subsidiary, reported turnover 6 per cent up, helped by strong demand for air conditioning during the warm summer.

Trading profits fell from £4.31 million, which included £600,000 from Godiva, to £3.48 million. Interest charges were steady at £1.47 million, against £1.69 million.

Last year, the company reported interim profits of £2.6 million but was severely affected by restructuring costs at Andrew Sykes during the second half, which reduced full year profits to £2.3 million before tax, against £6.53 million.

Reorganisation cuts Tinsley Robor profit

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE disruptive effects of an internal reorganisation cut the pre-tax profits of the Tinsley Robor specialist printing company by 31 per cent to £431,000 in the six months to end-September. But the interim dividend is being maintained at 0.75p on earnings per share of 1.09p (1.45p).

Turnover fell to £11.9 million, compared with £14.2 million in 1989. The reduction was the result of the closure of the machinery division, against which extraordinary costs of £233,000 have been charged for the first half. Continuing activities lifted their sales by 8.3 per cent.

John Rose, the chairman, said that trading since September 30 had seen the expected seasonal improvement in the promotional printing division.

However, the worsening economic climate meant that the benefits of investment in the packaging division may take longer than expected to materialise. Borrowings increased to £7.3 million, giving gearing of 78 per cent.

TOKYO

Nikkei up 336 points in thin day

Tokyo

PRICES closed higher after thin and featureless trading, supported mainly by index-linked buying. Expectations of lower domestic interest rates helped even though investors are nervous about the American-Iraqi deadlock concerning talks on the Gulf.

The Nikkei index closed up 336.11 points, or 1.40 per cent, at 24,424.02 after losing 261.59 on Monday. The index ended at its high.

Brokers were pleased about the fact that the Nikkei stayed above a psychological support line of 24,000 both on Monday and yesterday.

Turnover was 350 million shares against 270 million on Monday.

The market got a shot in the arm in the afternoon after the Bank of Japan said that November's money supply growth was 10 per cent, less than expected. This strengthened the belief that rates will ease soon. *(Reuter)*

WALL STREET

Dow advance trimmed

New York

PRICES advanced at mid-morning, helped by strength in some technology and drug shares. But blue chips eased.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 7 points at 2,600.32 after being 18 points higher.

● Sydney — Worries about the domestic economy, weak commodity prices and the chances of a Gulf war pushed the market to its lowest close in more than two and a half years. The All-Ordinaries index closed 12.1 lower at 1,283.6, its lowest since March 1, 1988 when it ended at 1,273.3. *(Reuter)*

MAJOR INDICES

New York:		
Dow Jones	2611.14	(+17.82)*
S&P Composite	327.97	(+1.95)*
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	24424.02	(+336.11)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	3066.65	(+14.73)
FT-SE Eurotrack	972.76	(+0.76)
Amsterdam:		
CBS Tendency	95.8	(+0.1)
Sydney: AO	1295.7	(−14.3)
Frankfurt: DAX	1477.41	(+1.54)
Brussels:		
General	4983.45	(−54.63)
Paris: CAC	425.35	(−3.93)
Zurich: SKA Gen	464.0	(−2.4)
London:		
FT–A All-Share	1039.03	(+1.32)
FT – "500"	1146.08	(+2.27)
FT Gold Mines	136.2	(−3.9)
FT Fixed Interest	91.06	(+0.13)
FT Govt Secs	82.74	(−0.13)
Bargains	23605	
SEAQ Volume	575.3m	
USM (Datastream)	108.25	(+0.33)

*Denotes latest trading price

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
ERF	152½p (+30p)
Euromoney Pub	347½p (+10p)
Shell	458½p (+9p)
Henderson Admin	545p (+10p)
Tomkinsons	188p (+8p)
Cussins	112½p (+8p)
Meanvale Moore	217½p (+10p)
NFC	124p (+8p)
M Clark	357p (+12p)
JA Devenish	144p (+10p)
Grand Met	656p (+8p)
FALLS:	
Blenheim Exhib	630p (−15p)
Hardinger	225p (−10p)
Shandwick	62½p (−10p)
Aegis Group	133½p (−11p)
Sotheby's	537½p (−50p)
Presidio	310p (−40p)
Eurotunnel Units	375p (−8p)
Leigh	306½p (−8p)
Dun Bradst	41½ 41

	Dec 18 midday	Dec 17 close		Dec 18 midday	Dec 17 close		Dec 18 midday	Dec 17 close
Abbott Lab	44¾	44¾	Enron	55¼	55	Onyx Energy	36¾	37¼
Aetna Life	38⅝	38⅞	Entergy	22¼	22⅛	Pac Enr	39¾	38⅞
Ahmanson	12¾	12¾	Ethyl	23¼	23	Pac Gas Elec	24¼	24¼
Air Prods	53¾	53¼	Exxon	60¾	61	Pac Telesis	46¾	46¾
Albertsons	35¾	34¾	Fed NMA	33¾	33⅜	Paccar	33	32¾
Alcan Al	19⅛	19⅜	Fedrl Exprs	32⅛	32⅜	Pacificorp	21⅛	21⅛
Alco Stand	32¾	32¾	Fst Nortlar	11⅞	11¾	Pall	34¾	34⅜
Allied Signal	26⅞	27	Fluor	38⅞	38½	Paramount	41¼	41⅜
Alumin CA	57½	57⅞	FMC	30⅞	30¾	Parker-Hanfn	23⅞	24¼
Am Brands	39	39⅞	Ford Motor	25⅞	25¾	Penney	43¼	43⅞
Am Cyanamd	52⅞	52	FPL	29	28⅞	Pennzoil	64¾	64⅞
Am EPC	28⅜	27¾	Fst Chicago	17¾	17⅞	Pepsico	28	28
Am General	30½	29⅞	Fst Interstt	24⅞	24¼	Pfizer	80½	80⅞
Am Home	52⅞	51⅞	Fst Union	16⅛	16¼	Philips Pet	25⅞	25¼
Am Intl	75⅞	75⅞	Gannett	35⅛	35¼	Phelps Elec	17⅞	17⅞
Am Medical	5⅞	5¼	Gen Cinema	19⅛	18⅞	Phip Morris	51⅞	50⅞
Am Stores	53⅛	53⅞	Gen Elec	56⅛	55⅞	Prices Dodge	54	53⅞
Amax	21⅞	21¼	Gen Mills	48	48	Pitney Bow	37½	37¼
Amer Hess	46⅞	46⅞	Gen Motors	34¼	33⅞	Plcr Dome	15⅞	15⅞
Amerisach	68⅞	67½	Gen RE	88⅞	89⅞	PNC Fncl	22¼	22⅛
Amex	20⅞	21¼	Gen Signal	35⅞	36	Pnndle Estn	10⅞	10⅞
Amoco	50⅞	51	Genuinch	n/a	n/a	Polaroid	22⅞	22
AMP	43⅛	43½	Genuine Pts	37⅞	37⅞	PPG Inds	43⅞	43⅞
AMR	49¼	48⅞	Georgia-Pac	38⅞	38⅞	Prctr Gmble	85⅞	85⅞
Anheuser-B	42⅞	42¼	Gillette	60⅞	60¼	Price	37⅞	36⅞
Apple Comp	41⅛	40⅞	Goodrich	39⅞	38⅞	Primerica	23	22
Archer-Dan	22⅛	22¼	Goodyear	16⅞	16⅞	Pub Service	26⅞	26⅞
Arkla	20⅞	20¼	Grace	24⅞	24¼	Quaker Oats	50⅞	50⅞
Armstrong	26⅞	25½	Greyhound	25⅞	25⅞	Ralston Pur	101⅞	98⅞
Asarco	26⅞	26⅞	Gt Atlantic	44⅛	43½	Raychem	21⅞	20⅞
Ashland Oil	29¼	28⅞	Gt Western	10⅞	10⅞	Raytheon	67⅞	68
AT&T	31¼	30⅞	GTE	30	30	Reebok	12⅞	12⅞
Atlan Richfld	124	125⅞	Halliburtn	46⅞	46¼	Roadway	38⅞	38
Auto DP	54⅞	54⅞	Heinz	34⅞	34⅛	Rockwell	27	26⅞
Avery Intl	20⅞	19⅞	Hercules	32⅞	32½	Rohm Haas	36⅞	35⅞
Avon Prod	28⅞	28⅞	Hershey Fd	37⅞	37½	Royal Dutch	77⅞	77
Baltimore	27⅞	27⅞	Hewlett Pkd	32⅞	31½	Rubbermaid	40⅞	41
Banc One	29⅞	29⅞	Hilton Hd	37⅞	37½	Ryntgs Mtl	54⅞	54⅞
Bankamerica	24	23½	Home Depot	38½	37⅞	Safeco	32⅞	32⅞
Bard	17⅞	17⅞	Homestake	16⅞	16½	Safeway	25⅞	25⅞
Barnett Bk	20	20	Honeywell	91⅞	91⅞	Sant Fe Pac	9⅞	9⅞
Bausch Lmb	67⅞	67⅞	Houston Ind	36½	36⅞	Sara Lee	32	32⅞
Baxter Intl	28⅞	27⅞	Hexalid Intl	31⅞	30⅞	Schacorp	39⅞	39⅞
Bec Dickin	74	74	Humana	42⅞	42⅞	Schlumbgr	56	55⅞
Bell Atlan	56⅞	55	IBM	112⅞	111⅞	Schrg-Plgh	48	46⅞
Bellsouth	54⅞	54⅞	IF&F	72⅞	73¼	Scott Paper	36⅞	36⅞
Bnr Hughes	25½	25⅞	Illinois TW	47⅞	47⅞	Seagram	88⅞	88⅞
Black Decker	10⅞	10⅞	Inco	28⅞	28⅞	Sears Rbk	26⅞	26⅞
Block	43⅛	43	Ingsol-Rand	36⅞	36⅞	Secrty Pac	21⅞	20⅞
Brstrs Tst NY	41⅞	41⅞	Inland Steel	23⅞	23⅞	Shwm-Wllms	38⅞	38⅞
Boeing	45⅞	44½	Intel	36⅞	35⅞	Skyline	15	15
Boise Casc	28⅞	28¼	Intl Paper	52⅞	52⅞	Snap-on Tls	31⅞	31⅞
Borden	28⅞	29	ITT	47⅞	47⅞	Southern	27⅞	27⅞
Brist-Myer	66⅞	65⅞	James River	24⅞	24½	St Paul	64⅞	64⅞
Browng-Fer	22⅞	21⅞	Johnsn Jnsn	70⅞	70⅞	Stanley Wk	29⅞	29
Burl Nth	28	28	K Mart	28⅞	28⅞	Stone Cntr	12	11⅞
CAI	7⅞	7½	Kellogg	75⅞	75½	Sun Co	28⅞	28⅞
Campbell Sp	58	58	Kerr-McGee	44⅞	44⅞	Suntrst Bk	22⅞	22⅞
Cap Cities	457	447⅞	Kimbly-Clrk	81⅞	82⅞	Super Valu	23⅞	23⅞
Capital HC	37⅞	37⅞	Knight-Rdr	44½	45	SW Bell	56⅞	56⅞
Carolina	45⅞	45⅞	Lilly	74⅞	74⅞	Synetics	57⅞	57⅞
Caterpillar	45⅞	44⅞	Litnfeld	16⅞	16⅞	Sysco	32⅞	32⅞
CBS	173⅞	173	Ltn Brdcstg	60⅞	60⅞	Tandem	11⅞	11⅞
Central SW	44⅞	44	Lincln Nat	40⅞	39⅞	Tandy	29⅞	29⅞
Champion	26⅞	26⅞	Litton Ind	76⅞	75⅞	Tele-comm	12⅞	12⅞
Chase Man	10⅞	10⅞	Lockheed	32⅞	32⅞	Teledyne	17	16⅞
Chem Bnkg	11⅞	10⅞	Louis-Pac	27⅞	27⅞	Temple-In	31½	31⅞
Chevron	69⅞	69⅞	Manu Hanv	19⅞	19	Tenneco	46⅞	46
Chrysler	13	12⅞	Marrion	12⅞	12⅞	Texaco	57⅞	57⅞
Chubb	50⅞	51½	Marsh Mclen	74⅞	74⅞	Texas Inst	35⅞	34⅞
Cigna	39⅞	39⅞	Martin Mar	46⅞	46½	Texas Util	37⅞	37⅞
Cincorp	13⅞	13⅞	Masco	17	17⅞	Textron	24⅞	24⅞
Clorox	28⅞	28⅞	May Dept	42⅞	42⅞	Time Wmr	66⅞	66⅞
Coca-Cola	38⅞	36⅞	Maytag	11⅞	11⅞	Times Mirr	25⅞	25⅞
Colgate-Pal	34⅞	34½	MCA	67⅞	67⅞	Timken	22⅞	23½
Columb Gas	48	48	McDnl Doug	43	43⅞	Torchmark	48	47⅞
Compaq	55⅞	54⅞	McDonalds	29½	29⅞	Toys R Us	23	23⅞
Comerica	37⅞	38	McGraw-Hill	52⅞	52	Transam	33	33⅞
Cons Edis	23⅞	23⅞	MCI Com	18⅞	18⅞	Travelers	17⅞	18⅞
Cons NG	44⅞	44⅞	Mead	26⅞	26⅞	Tribune	38	35⅞
Cons Rail	40	40⅞	Medtronic	64⅞	64⅞	TRW	34⅞	35⅞
Cooper Ind	38⅞	38⅞	Melville	41⅞	41	Tyco Lab	42⅞	43⅞
Corning	45½	45⅞	Merck	86½	86⅞	UAL	108½	105⅞
CPC Intl	80⅞	78⅞	Merrill Lynch	22½	22	Un Camp	35⅞	36
Crown Cork	58	56⅞	MMM	84½	84⅞	Un Carbide	17⅞	17⅞
CSX	30⅞	30	Mobil	67⅞	67⅞	Un Pacific	68⅞	68⅞
Dana	27⅞	27⅞	Monsanto	48	47½	Unisyr	9⅞	9⅞
Dayton-Hud	58⅞	57⅞	Moore	23	22½	Unocal	26⅞	26⅞
Deere	45⅞	45⅞	Morgan	42⅞	42⅞	Upjohn	38⅞	38⅞
Delta Air	56	55⅞	Motorola	61⅞	60⅞	US West	38⅞	38⅞
Deluxe	34⅞	34⅞	Nat Medical	38⅞	38½	Usar Gp	15⅞	16½
Detroit Ed	28⅞	28⅞	Nat Semi	4½	4⅞	USF&G	7⅞	7⅞
Digital Eq	58⅞	57⅞	Nat Service	25⅞	25⅞	UST	33	33⅞
Disney	87⅞	88	Navistar	2⅞	2	USX	30⅞	30⅞
Dominion	100⅞	101⅞	NCNB	22⅞	22⅞	Utd Tech	49	48⅞
Donnelley	47	46⅞	NCR	67⅞	67⅞	Utd Telcm	22⅞	22⅞
Dover	39⅞	39⅞	NED Bncp	30	30	VF	18⅞	18
Dow Chem	38⅞	38⅞	Newmnt Min	34⅞	34½	Wal-Mart	30⅞	30⅞
Dow Jones	47⅞	47	Nlagr Mhwk	13⅞	13⅞	Walgreen	48⅞	48⅞
Dresser Ind	22⅞	22⅞	Nike	36⅞	38½	Waste Mgmt	35	35
Du Pont	20⅞	20⅞	NL Indstrs	9⅞	9⅞	Wells Fargo	67⅞	68⅞
Duke Pwr	37⅞	37	Nordstrom	22⅞	22⅞	Wstng Elec	27⅞	27⅞
Dun Bradst	31⅞	30⅞	Norfk Sthn	40⅞	40⅞	Weyerhsr	21⅞	21⅞
Eastman Kd	41⅞	41	Norwest	19⅞	19	Whirlpool	23⅞	23½
			Nstrn St Pwr	34⅞	34⅞	Whitmen	18⅞	18⅞
			Nstrn Telcm	27⅞	27⅞	Winn-Dixie	31⅞	32
			NY Times	19⅞	19⅞	Woolworth	30⅞	29⅞
			Nynex	73⅞	72⅞			

Sleepy Kids omits payout

SLEEPY Kids, the animated cartoon company which joined the Third Market last year, reports pre-tax profits of £10,500 for the 15 months to end-October on a turnover of £204,000. The loss per share was 0.01p and there is no dividend.

The company said that 13 episodes of the *Potsworth & Co* cartoon series will be screened weekly on BBC1 from January, with the BBC having the right to repeats and an option on broadcasting rights for any additional series.

CU maintains bonus rates

By SARA MCCONNELL

COMMERCIAL Union, the composite insurance company, maintained its bonus rates this year although the maturity value of its ten-year with-profits endowment policy fell 1.4 per cent. CU is the first insurer to announce bonus rates for this year.

Others are expected to maintain or reduce bonuses after the general market downturn this year.

The maturity value of a CU ten-year, with-profits endowment taken out by a man aged 30 next birthday, paying £30 a month, would be £7,645, down 1.4 per cent from last year. A CU spokesman said this was partly due to a special bonus CU paid on the policy ten years ago, which had dropped out of the bonus calculation, and partly the result of poor performance from the short-term equities in which contributions were mostly invested.

The maturity value of a 25-year endowment increased 2.6 per cent to £61,721. The terminal bonus, which is added the year the policy matures, represents 29.8 per cent of the total value of the 25-year policy and 20 per cent of the ten-year payout. Reversionary bonus rates, paid every year, were maintained on life policies at 5 per cent a year on the sum assured and previously attaching bonus and at 2 per cent on all previously declared attaching bonuses.

Old-style pension policy bonuses were maintained at 7 per cent a year on the sum assured and previously attaching bonus and at 2 per cent on all attaching bonuses previously declared.

CU will continue to pay a terminal bonus of 25 per cent of the total sum assured and attaching bonuses on policies taken out in, or after, 1975.

Hongkong Bank of Canada up

From LULU YU
IN HONG KONG

HONGKONG Bank of Canada, the Canadian offshoot of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, has reported net profits up 40 per cent to Can$48.7 million (£21.8 million) for the year to end-October.

Consolidated assets after the acquisition of Lloyds Bank of Canada amounted to Can$10.2 billion, compared with Can$6.1 billion in 1989.

James Cleave, the president and chief executive, said the absorption of Lloyds extended the bank's operations substantially, boosting the growth of earnings.

Canada is one of Hongkong Bank's most profitable areas, alongside the Asia-Pacific region. The bank, which revealed plans to set up a holding company in Britain on Monday, has been hurt by poor results from offshoots in Australia and the United States. Following news of redomiciling, Hong Kong government officials took pains to reassure the public of the

Fraud charges for 81 in Taiwan

From REUTER IN TAIPEI

PROSECUTORS have charged 81 people in connection with a multi-billion dollar fraud that threatened the savings of thousands of investors in Taiwan.

A spokesman for the Taipei district prosecutor's office said Shen Chang-sheng, the former head of the Hung Yuan investment group, was among those charged with fraud and violations of the banking, corporation and securities laws.

Also charged was Yu Yung-ming, the former president of Hung Yuan, which was the largest and most spectacular of the many illegal investment firms that its success last year, the firm claimed assets of $3.6 billion.

Like other investment companies, Hung Yuan attracted large deposits from tens of thousands of Taiwanese, many of them pensioners, by offering interest rates of up to 8 per cent per month.

Faith in the companies was so strong that most investors re-invested their profits, leaving them vulnerable when the companies were obliged to comply with a banking law passed in July 1989. The law, which orders prison sentences and heavy fines for illegal deposit-taking, reflected growing government fears that the underground banks were simply but Hung Yuan and the Fortune Group, the second-largest, continued to operate, although they cut interest payments and stopped accepting deposits. They later promised to restructure and sell their assets to repay investors. Operations have been frozen for the past several months.

Ting Lei-miao, the head of the Fortune Group, was sentenced to four and a half years in prison in July for violations of the banking law. The first group of Hung Yuan officials, including Mr Shen, was arrested on August 22.

Prosecutors said yesterday that 18 of the 81 accused were being detained,

Room for cheaper money in January

COMMENT

Norman Lamont's views on the ERM have gone through three reinterpretations in two weeks. The latest version, which has the Chancellor reducing interest rates once sterling stabilises, but not necessarily waiting for it to rise into the upper half of its ERM band, is the most convincing. It is convincing not because it is the last word on the subject, but because it is the first that makes sense.

Mr Lamont's first remark about the ERM came two weeks ago, before the Commons treasury committee. At that time he claimed to be entirely unconcerned by sterling's steady weakening since it joined the ERM. Naturally, the markets were alarmed, concluding that the government's commitment to a hard currency was wavering already. The growing disquiet among the currency dealers was what prompted the now notorious bluster of Mr Lamont's Commons statement on Wednesday. On hearing phrases like "there can be no question" of rate cuts, and "this will be our position, however strong the pressure for lower rates", the markets were right to express scepticism and the Conservative party was certainly right to panic. It seems, however, that the world over-reacted.

The government is determined to stop sterling falling out of the bottom of the ERM at any cost. But it does not see anything magical or even particularly significant about the mid-point of DM2.95. This attitude is entirely consistent with the rules of the ERM. Indeed, the word a few weeks ago, even from the hardliners at the Bank of England, was that rate cuts would not be ruled out by the mere fact that sterling was in the bottom half of its range.

The new interpretation of the ERM commitment should leave Mr Lamont with enough room for manoeuvre to cut rates in January, external circumstances permitting. Nevertheless, he has taken a big risk by delaying the cut which had been fully discounted for last week. By mid-January the Gulf could be in flames, and and there will almost certainly be a rise in German interest rates. Under these circumstances, even having to defend the bottom of the ERM band could prove more of a constraint than expected.

Gulf woes

It was a brave Robert Mosbacher, the US commerce secretary, who was able to spy underlying beauty in yesterday's ugly-looking American trade figures. For all the gloom about recession over there, and the collapsed dollar, the trade gap actually managed to widen dramatically in October to $11.6 billion.

Doubtless, Mr Mosbacher was right to point to the distorting effect of higher oil prices. He was probably right again to underline that the monthly fluctuations in the trade figures can be pretty wild (if not quite as bad as some of the British government data). But it was rather odd of him to seek to explain that the deficit was "very good" compared with October 1989. Surely, the sharp deterioration of the US economy this year, plus a currency at times in free-fall, should have brought massive improvement in the trade balance by now, not a two-and-a-half-year high.

An interesting development for an economy supposedly flat on its face was the jump in non-oil imports in October. The benign view has to be that this represents, with a lag, the last flicker of optimism before American confidence folded this autumn. On this reading, the trade gap should start to narrow again from here on as the fall-off in import demand turns serious. But with four-fifths of the rise in imports attributed to industrial materials, capital goods, cars and consumer goods, it would not be difficult to draw less benign conclusions.

The modest rise of 0.3 per cent in the US consumer price index last month suggests the US at least has inflation under control. The real question is whether the Federal Reserve Board will be convinced enough to ease policy.

Christies cuts

Christies International is showing a management quality more honoured in the breach than the observance in British corporate life by leading from the top in bad times as well as in good.

Yesterday's announcement of a 10 per cent reduction in total staff costs to shore up a deteriorating cost base will apply across the world and across all sectors of employees. The financial strictures also apply to the directors.

While none of the board features in the 145 job losses, every senior level of personnel and all main board directors take part in the group's salary freeze, which could last a year at least.

The 50 per cent fall in autumn season sales from a previous record £675 million at a time of world recession and political uncertainty comes as no surprise. But having learnt the lessons of 1974, when the closure of selected European outlets lost an element of Continental goodwill, Christies is fully maintaining its British, European and Far East network.

At least Christies is debt-free and all management is showing its commitment to making the recovery work. For that, Michael Ashcroft's ADT group, holding 24 per cent and showing a paper loss of at least £60 million on its original investment, can be grateful.

Water babes dividends add up to so far so good

WESSEX Water completed the first half results season of the ten privatised water groups with a flourish, declaring a maiden interim dividend more than a fifth higher than the notional 1989 figure. Yet no-one was anxious to lead this dividend league table.

Nicholas Hood, chairman of Wessex, was at pains to point out that his money dividend was only average for the sector and that Wessex had fixed what it could afford long before others revealed their lower notional rises. No company chairman wants Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, to think it is better off than predicted when price rises to consumers were fixed, lest he be tempted to take the money back.

That encapsulates the financial dilemma of an industry anxious to satisfy three constituencies: customers, investors and regulators. Water suppliers may not face direct competition but are instead confronted by the novelty of competition between new teams of regulators to show who is the toughest.

Mr Byatt has to show that customers will pay no more than necessary to secure the investment funds needed to improve standards of quality and service. Lord Crickhowell's National Rivers Authority is competing, not just with Ofwat but with the European Commission, to promote the highest feasible quality of water, bathing beaches and, therefore, sewage effluent.

The dividend league table is not vital at this stage. Whether by design or happenstance, the biggest notional rises have come from those whose shares have lagged relative to the sector since flotation, including Severn Trent, Southern and, until recently, Thames. This has, to some extent, redressed the imbalance of the relatively tight flotation terms for these companies, which were artificially based on the likely uptake from customers in their area.

Of far greater significance is that the water and sewage groups as a whole have had a notably successful first year in the private sector. In fully paid form, the shares have, on average, risen by 18 per cent, while the FT-SE 100 share index fell 8.5 per cent.

Much of this outperformance has come since mid-July, when the impact of recession on company profits sent the rest of the market down, exposing the defensive qualities of the industry. Its long term financial future centres on a pre-set financial regime designed to allow the efficient to raise dividends in real terms from investing about £30 billion over ten years to upgrade the nation's infrastructure.

An extra blip over the past month, which has led to some timely profit taking, stemmed from the prospect of lower interest rates and some favourable comparison with the terms of the sale of the electricity distribution utilities.

Profits of most companies have benefited from high interest rates on the cash initially settled in their balance sheets and from much more skilful financial management. Inflation of construction costs, which seemed one of the biggest threats a year ago, has so far been much less than expected, due to the downturn in other construction markets.

The move to the private sector has also produced that greater attention to financial detail and cost saving apparent in so many previous privatisations, from British Telecom onwards. At the same time customers, though extremely unhappy at price rises, have on the whole received better service than they might previously have done, especially during the summer drought.

Environmental failures continue, but seem to be at a somewhat lower rate than before. The spotlight has been on the industry and its performance has duly improved.

Even so, the dividend honeymoon will not last for long. Mr Byatt should not worry about initial dividend adjustments. But he will not for long regard dividend rises at between 4 and 10 per cent above the November rise in the retail price index as necessary to secure the proper funding for capital spending.

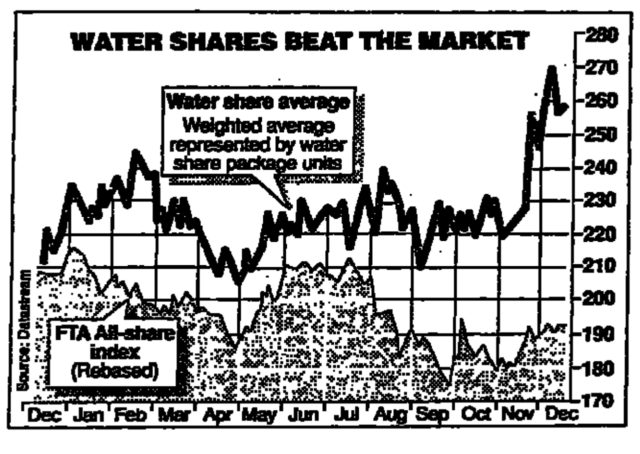
Savings will be clawed back. That could come through early reductions in pre-set permitted real price increases, but more likely through offsetting windfall gains — and even some predictable efficiency gains — against extra costs from new quality requirements that might otherwise be passed through to customers.

When that happens, much more genuine differentiation will emerge between the ten companies. If they want to keep dividends rising at more than 4 per cent above inflation, they will have to achieve something extra. There are two obvious methods: above average efficiency or creating extra profits through diversification into unregulated businesses. Several groups, notably Thames, Severn Trent, Welsh and North West have already made, or attempted, ambitious moves outside their core water and sewage business, without attracting much more than suspicion thus far.

Others, such as Anglian, Yorkshire and Wessex, are confident that they will shine sufficiently on their core business to achieve above average returns once the regulator starts to make serious comparisons of performance. Such differences will fascinate observers, though, for several years, they are still likely to pass the average investor by.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
Financial Editor

WATER SHARES BEAT THE MARKET



INTERIM DIVIDEND INCREASES

Wessex	20.3%
Thames*	19.3%
Severn Trent	18.2%
Southern	17.8%
Welsh	16.3%
Northumbrian	16.0%
South West	15.3%
Yorkshire	14.8%
North West	14.6%
Anglian	13.5%

*Adjusted for rise in 1989-90 final, nominal increase 23.5 per cent

Bumpy ride ahead for NFC

TEMPUS

TIMES must be really hard in the transport sector if NFC has to abstain from giving its famed "best view" of the current year at the preliminary stage. Its employee-shareholders and City analysts will now have to wait until the February annual meeting before learning about the outlook.

The decision to make a firm forecast a year ago was a brave attempt to offer the many worker-shareholders an idea of what to expect. The forecast of £105 million pre-tax was scaled back to £97 million by the half-way stage as the recession started to bite.

In the event, NFC announced £97.7 million (£90.2 million) for the year to October 6 with a warning about prospects. Most of the problems came from the core transport division, where trading profits fell from £37.2 million to £27.3 million.

The company was too slow to react to the economic downturn, it was too dependent on high-volume businesses like freight, trucks and trailers and it chased market share at the expense of margins.

The current year offers little prospect of an improvement, while NFC cannot rely on much help from property, which chipped in £26.8 million, achieving a £2.2 million increase against the odds.

Analysts' forecasts, deprived of the usual prop of a steer from the company, cover a wide range, but the chances are that NFC will be forced to report a downturn next time.

With the market already braced for the worst, the shares perked up 8p to 124p, but they sell on more than 9 times' prospective earnings, even assuming a repeat of this year's profits. They do not look worth chasing at this level.

Gold Greenlees Trott

GOLD Greenlees Trott has pledged to maintain the total dividend at 8.3p a share for the year to the end of April 1991, despite the depressing advertising outlook, but the City is doubtful. How else does one explain a prospective yield of 20 per cent in the agency sector for a company that has a negative net worth of £6.5 million.

The odds appeared to be stacked against GGT this year after the departure of David Trott, creative director, and a profits warning. However, GGT has negotiated the first hurdles with some skill to win some breathing space.

Pre-tax profits of £2.24 million, against £3.5 million, for the six months to the end of October, were no worse than expected two months ago and the payment of a maintained interim dividend of 3.3p, covered 2.6 times, is a move in the right direction.

Tim Mellor was lured from Publicis to replace Mr Trott and the agency successfully repitched for Holsten Pils and Toshiba, two of its most profitable clients. Above-the-line advertising in the UK remains difficult but GGT has been able to switch resources to below-the-line advertising such as sales promotion and sponsorship, which has proved resilient. Newly-acquired GSD&M, of Texas, has also avoided the worst of the downturn in America.

At 55p, the shares trade on a multiple of three times prospective earnings of 17p, down from 31p. A punt for investors with nerves of steel.

Yorkshire TV

AN UNEXPECTED 6.2 per cent rise in dividend injected some colour into Yorkshire Television shares after what was, at least on the face of it, a grey set of results. With the increased levy and the evaporating advertising revenue, the television contractors have been having a thin time, but Yorkshire has shown the grit to out-perform its sector.

The newly installed media sales team pinched a bigger slice of total network advertising revenue — 8.6 per cent against 8.5 per cent — with a 2.2 per cent rise in income, while *Yellowthread Street* and *Till We Meet Again* programme sales underlined the company's strong tradition in programme-making, lifting programme sales by £2 million to £9.6 million.

Under the previous levy arrangements, Yorkshire would have made £21 million pre-tax compared with the actual £18.4 million. Encouragingly, the worse conditions became, the stronger, it seems, Yorkshire grew. During the second half, even though profits were slipping back, Yorkshire did its best work. The group also achieved a 5.3 per cent cut in total staff costs.

On its record, Yorkshire is fancied to retain its franchise next year, and it has put aside £3.55 million to finance the changes required to enable it to continue as both broadcaster and programme-maker.

Given the deepening recession, it is doubtful whether the contractors will make much headway in 1991, and £19.5 million may be as much as Yorkshire can look for. A 7.1 prospective earnings multiple is in line with the market and, on normal criteria, Yorkshire, at 244p, looks a certain hold. But anything could happen in the next few months.

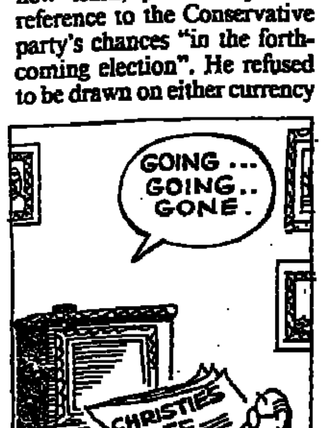
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bakewell's part

THERE was consternation at Wessex Water when a festive analysts' breakfast scheduled for 8.15am at the Armourers and Brasiers Hall came up against a Stock Exchange computer breakdown, delaying publication of the group's interim results. After harsh words and compromises, the results were deemed to have been officially announced almost an hour later. Meanwhile, the two dozen dedicated analysts had taken their fill of kedgeree, bacon, eggs and black pudding — not to mention Bucks fizz — and further made merry by opening their Christmas crackers. Nicholas Hood, Wessex's popular and increasingly respected chairman — after unveiling the best profit and dividend figures in the sector — entered fully into the spirit of the impromptu occasion and delivered his slide presentation wearing a funny paper hat and surrounded by balloons. Before he threw the floor open to questions however, he handed an envelope to County NatWest's Robert Miller-Bakewell. Since Miller-Bakewell always asks the same question at water company presentations, about the cost of maintaining mains and sewers and how those costs have been carried forward on to the balance sheet, Hood had pre-empted him by writing down the answer beforehand. "He is always the first person to ask a same one," confirms Stephen Doe, of Smith New Court. "So much so that everyone else waits for him to ask it before they start asking anything else."

Major appointment

THE 170 or so institutional fund managers who crowded into Kleinwort Benson's global investment strategy conference were, after listening to Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, left to conclude that Sarah Hogg, formerly economics editor at *The Times*, *The Independent* and most recently the *Daily Telegraph*, who now heads the policy unit at No. 10, would be masterminding John Major's election manifesto. Patten described her appointment as "one of the most significant appointments" in Major's new team, particularly with reference to the Conservative party's chances "in the forthcoming election". He refused to be drawn on either currency or interest rate questions, but admitted that "the most important factor in electorate perception" when it came to casting votes, was their disposable income and, therefore, the mortgage rate. "We need to get mortgage rates down," he said. Kleinwort's in-house view is that interest rates will be reduced by 1 percentage point in late January or early February, with a further one percentage point cut at the time of the Budget, or shortly afterwards.



Jeffrey's off

THE decimation of the gilt-edged market will progress one step further during the course of the next week, when one of the last remaining gentlemen of the Stock Exchange floor takes his leave from the Square Mile. Jeffrey Wilson, aged 51, and a long-standing member of the Stock Exchange Christian Association, has decided to take early retirement from Baring Brothers. He was formerly a partner of the gilt-edged jobber Wilson & Watford, which he joined when he was 18 years old, at a time when his father was its senior partner. The firm was bought by Barings in the run-up to big bang and renamed Baring Wilson & Watford. It finally lost its original name when Barings merged its gilt-edged, bulldog and debenture market-making division with its Eurosterling market-maker in October last year, turning it into Baring Sterling Bonds. farewell drinks party at Luc's, Leadenhall Market, tomorrow at 5pm, and has extended an invitation to any of the old regulars of the gilt-edged market, most of whom will be travelling in from outside the Square Mile.

GERALD Ratner, chairman and chief executive of Ratners Group, may not be having quite as tough a time as some on the high street, nor has the jewellery king lost his sense of humour. He has sent Christmas cards depicting a Roy Lichtenstein-style girl weeping into the telephone and, according to the accompanying bubble, thinking: "So this is what he meant when he said he'd give me a ring at Christmas."

Bubbly gusher

OIL explorer Lasmo has come up with an interesting variation on oil futures — predict the correct price of a barrel of oil and you will receive a delivery of champagne instead of oil. The idea is Lasmo's contribution to Team Challenge 90, which involves 60 companies competing to raise the most for the Romanian Orphanage Appeal. Those who fancy their chances have to guess the dollar oil price on March 28. There is no entry fee but entrants are invited to contribute the sterling equivalent of the bid, as a donation to the cause. The winner will receive a bottle of bubbly for every dollar of the bid, and Entries must be received by noon tomorrow.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	582.5	0.1	−30.9	0.4	−22.1	0.5	−17.0
(free)	111.4	0.1	−30.9	0.3	−22.1	0.5	−17.1
EAFE	1013.4	0.3	−34.9	0.3	−29.5	0.6	−21.9
(free)	104.2	0.3	−35.0	0.2	−29.6	0.7	−22.0
Europe	610.8	−0.3	−19.7	−0.3	−17.3	0.0	−3.6
(free)	132.3	−0.3	−19.1	−0.6	−16.9	0.1	−2.8
Nth America	415.4	−0.3	−22.8	0.1	−7.3	0.1	−7.3
Nordic	1104.8	−1.2	−29.0	−1.0	−24.0	−0.8	−14.7
(free)	182.3	−1.3	−22.5	−1.1	−17.5	−0.9	−6.9
Pacific	2240.7	0.7	−43.5	0.8	−36.9	1.1	−32.1
Far East	3252.7	0.8	−43.8	0.8	−37.6	1.2	−32.5
Australia	229.0	−0.7	−34.1	−0.7	−18.6	−0.3	−20.8
Austria	1367.3	−1.0	−8.0	−1.0	−3.0	−0.6	10.5
Belgium	705.9	−1.5	−28.3	−1.5	−25.7	−1.2	−13.9
Canada	421.5	−0.3	−29.8	0.1	−15.7	0.1	−15.7
Denmark	1099.9	−2.2	−16.4	−2.0	−12.5	−1.8	0.4
Finland	64.2	−0.6	−44.3	−0.4	−40.5	−0.2	−33.1
(free)	86.7	−0.9	−41.8	−0.7	−37.9	−0.5	−30.1
France	598.7	−0.7	−26.0	−0.6	−22.3	−0.3	−11.1
Germany	730.9	−1.0	−20.4	−1.0	−16.2	−0.6	−4.3
Hong Kong	1942.0	0.3	−12.5	0.7	5.1	0.7	5.2
Italy	267.2	0.0	−30.7	0.0	−26.4	0.4	−16.7
Japan	3417.5	0.8	−44.6	0.9	−38.6	1.2	−33.5
Netherlands	742.3	0.6	−21.5	0.6	−17.4	1.0	−5.7
New Zealand	50.6	−1.6	−50.9	−0.4	−40.3	−1.2	−41.0
Norway	1141.5	−1.0	−15.0	−0.7	−9.7	−0.6	2.2
(free)	199.9	−0.9	−14.4	−0.6	−9.2	−0.5	2.8
Sing/Malay	1458.6	−0.7	−26.9	0.1	−20.4	−0.3	−12.2
Spain	172.3	−0.2	−27.2	−0.2	−24.2	0.2	−12.6
Sweden	1155.5	−0.9	−34.1	−0.8	−28.6	−0.5	−20.9
(free)	168.2	−0.5	−30.5	−0.4	−24.7	−0.1	−16.6
Switzerland	718.8	0.3	−21.4	0.2	−22.3	0.7	−5.6
(free)	109.2	0.4	−21.8	0.2	−22.7	0.8	−6.1
UK	643.6	0.0	−10.7	0.0	−10.7	0.4	7.2
USA	376.0	−0.3	−22.2	0.1	−6.5	0.1	−6.5

(lc) Local currency.* *Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.*

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
ADT	724	CU	541	Lonrho	2,184	Slough	291
Abbey Nat	1,732	Cookson	1,348	Lucas	2,246	Smith & N	1,236
Alld-Lyons	1,926	Courtaulds	1,546	Manpower	1,169	SK Beech	817
Amstrad	3,120	Dalgety	438	M&S	6,619	Do Uts	95
Anglian	661	Dixons	1,233	Maxwell Cm	227	Smith WH	1,356
Argos	2,622	ECC	186	MB Group	540	Smiths Ind	178
ASDA	5,917	Enterprise	1,468	MEPC	141	STC	48
AB Foods	669	Ferranti	1,864	Midland	2,560	Stan Chart	491
Argyll	1,899	Fisons	746	Nat West	5,256	Storehse	979
BAA	848	FKI	693	Next	2,839	Sun Allnce	652
BET	3,288	Gen Acc	412	Nth Food	1,161	Sun Life	106
BTR	4,808	GEC	10,626	P&O	614	T & N	219
BAT	1,218	Glaxo	3,594	Pearson	822	TI Group	198
Barclays	7,921	Glynwed	349	Pilkington	1,841	Tarmac	1,099
Bass	991	Granada	5,041	Prudential	3,642	Tate & Lyle	1,593
Beazer	1,438	Grand Met	3,676	Racal	17,129	Taylor Wd	1,254
Bensfd Intl	3,735	GUS 'A'	504	Racal Tele	1,120	TSB	823
BICC	883	GRE	4,380	Rk Hovis	1,186	Tesco	2,468
Blue Circle	2,109	GKN	4,698	Rank	651	Thames Wtr	290
BOC	763	Guinness	2,347	R&C	452	Thorn EMI	974
Boots	3,686	Hamm 'A'	225	Redland	269	Trafalgar	1,507
BPB	1,121	Hanson	7,667	Reed	3,393	THF	1,369
Br Aero	1,380	Do Wts	495	Reuters	2,623	Ultramar	3,953
Br Airways	2,143	H & C	201	RMC Gp	347	Unigate	757
Br Gas	12,189	Hawker	2,637	RTZ	650	Unilever	1,891
Br Land	663	Hillsdown	2,615	R-Royce	2,479	United Bis	1,496
Br Petrol	9,021	IMI	1,193	Rothmn 'B'	11	Utd News	1,082
Br Steel	24,231	ICI	1,062	Royal Bank	1,011	Wellcome	460
Br Telecm	9,593	Inchcape	455	Royal Ins	1,198	Welsh	457
Bunzl	2,565	Kingfisher	1,204	Saatchi	782	Wessex	972
Burmah Cast	279	Lasmo	2,078	Sainsbury	1,287	Whitbrd	820
Burton	13,495	Ladbroke	3,502	Scot & N	469	Wgn Teape	1,620
C&W	2,049	Land Sec	586	Sears	13,422	Williams	188
Cadbury	2,290	Laporte	422	Sedgwick	132	Willis Cor	1,928
Calor	1,647	L&G	1,102	Severn Trnt	672	Wimpey G	71
Carlton	839	Lloyds	5,970	Shell	5,145		
Coats	2,338	Lloyds Abb	401	Siebe	312		

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 17	January 4	March 27	April 8

Call options were taken out on: 18/12/90 Berisford, Global Inv, Hawthorn Leslie, Regal Hotels, Tusker Resources

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Lyon	420	75	90	97	2	6	9
(*487)	460	37	60	68	6	15	19
	500	16	37	42	23	30	35
ASDA	120	6	–	–	6	–	–
(*120)	130	3	7	–	12	17	–
	140	1	4½	7½	22	24	26
Bass	950	130	165	185	3	10	20
(*1069)	1000	86	125	150	8	22	32
	1050	47	95	120	22	40	50
Boots	300	24	39	46	4½	10	15
(*319)	330	7	21	28	17	23	27
	360	2	10	16	45	45	46
Brit Air	130	18	25	26	2½	6	8
(*144)	140	12	17	21	5½	9	14
	160	3	8½	11	18	19	25
BP	300	36	44	51	2½	6½	9
(*332)	330	13	25	33	10	15	19
	360	4	13	21	31	34	36
Brit Steel	110	11	16½	18½	1½	3½	6
(*118)	120	4½	9½	12	6½	7	11
	130	2	5½	7½	14	14	17
C & W	420	42	62	73	6	13	18
(*455)	460	15	36	50	21	30	34
	500	6	19	31	53	55	60
Com Union	420	70	80	85	1½	6	9
(*488)	460	35	48	60	7	19	22
	500	11	25	39	25	38	44
Courtauld	300	47	60	65	1½	5	9
(*343)	330	23	37	45	7	13	18
	360	8	19	27	23	28	38
GKN	280	55	62	68	1	8	10
(*332)	300	38	44	50	4	14	16
	330	15	24	32	13	27	30
Grand Met	550	105	113	128	2½	7	11
(*656)	600	55	72	93	7	16	25
	650	20	43	62	29	38	45
ICI	850	75	95	107	8	29	38
(*910)	900	38	62	78	23	50	60
	950	17	36	58	50	80	87
Kingfisher	360	20	36	44	10	19	25
(*364)	390	7	23	29	29	35	41
	420	2½	12	18	58	58	58
Ladbroke	260	15	28	32	10	16	19
(*257)	280	6	18	23	20	27	30
	300	3	10	–	39	41	–
Land Sec	460	77	–	–	2	–	–
(*534)	500	42	–	–	5	–	–
	550	13	–	–	29	–	–
M & S	220	12	22	26	6½	10	14
(*224)	240	4½	12	16	20	22	24
	260	1	6	11	39	39	40
STC	280	43	43	43	½	1	1
(*322)	300	24	23	23	½	1	1
	330	1	1	1	13	14	14
Sainsbury	280	30	42	46	3	6	9
(*305)	300	14	27	33	7	12	15
	330	4	12	19	27	29	31
Shell	420	42	52	63	3	11	14
(*459)	460	15	27	42	15	28	33
	500	3	12	25	48	55	58
Smid Beech	550	75	85	110	2	11	15
(*617)	600	33	58	75	12	24	30
	650	10	31	49	40	48	55
Storehse	110	4½	10	13	7	11	13
(*108)	120	2½	6	9	15	18	20
	130	1½	4	6	25	25	26
Trafalgar	160	37	45	47	2½	5½	11
(*193)	180	20	32	35	6	11	19
	200	8	23	25	15	22	28
Ultramar	300	28	40	50	4	9	12
(*323)	330	12	23	33	16	25	27
	360	4	12	20	40	43	45
Unilever	600	100	117	127	3	6	11
(*695)	650	52	75	90	9	16	23
	700	19	40	60	25	38	45
	750	5	23	–	65	70	–
Utd Elec	300	30	36	44	3	9	12
(*322)	330	8	18	26	14	24	26
	360	3	8	–	38	43	–
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAA	360	62	78	80	3	8	12
(*412)	390	37	55	58	10	16	22
	420	19	38	44	22	30	37
BAT Ind	500	110	120	130	3	8	11
(*594)	550	65	80	95	9	20	25
	600	30	48	62	25	40	45
	650	12	–	–	57	–	–
BTR	280	60	63	72	1½	5	8
(*333)	300	42	48	56	4	11	13
	330	20	28	38	12	21	25
Brit Aero	500	45	55	72	14	28	32
(*529)	550	19	31	47	38	53	57
	600	7	16	–	80	90	–
Brit Tele	260	32	43	48	3	5½	9
(*291)	280	17½	29	35	9	12	15½
	300	7	18	24	21	23	24
Cadbury	300	40	44	54	4½	9	12
(*330)	330	19	26	36	14	22	24
	360	7	15	24	33	41	43
Guinness	700	86	112	135	5	15	20
(*778)	750	57	78	102	16	30	35
	800	29	50	73	39	52	57
GEC	160	20	27	31	3	4½	8
(*177)	180	7	15	18	10½	12	16
	200	2½	6½	10	26	27	29
Hanson	180	14½	21	24	6	8	10½
(*193)	200	4	10½	14	17½	19	22
	220	1½	5	–	37	37	–
LASMO	390	28	40	50	17	24	30
(*393)	420	13	28	38	33	40	43
	460	5	13	23	70	72	75
P & O	460	87	97	105	4	15	19
(*535)	500	54	66	78	14	28	31
	550	28	38	52	35	54	65
Pilkington	140	37	43	44	2	4	5
(*172)	160	19	27	29	4½	7	12
	180	6½	16	18	14	17	22

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Prudential	180	28	32	35	1½	4½	6
(*201)	200	13	17	23	6	12	14
	220	4½	8	14	20	25	26
Racal	160	32	39	43	2½	6	8
(*186)	180	17	26	32	6½	13	16
	200	7½	16	21	21	23	25
RTZ	390	77	82	90	5	10	13
(*453)	420	50	57	70	9	19	22
	460	24	33	47	23	37	40
Scot & New	330	38	53	60	5	10	13
(*364)	360	20	35	40	18	23	26
	390	7	23	27	37	40	47
Tesco	200	37	42	46	2½	4	4½
(*232)	220	21	26	32	5	8	9
	240	8½	15	21	14	16	18
Thames Wtr	230	37	–	–	2	–	–
(*254)	240	28	34	38	4½	7	12
	260	12	21	25	13	17	21
Wtr Package	2300	320	–	–	15	–	–
(*£2605)	2350	280	–	–	35	–	–
	2400	240	–	–	55	–	–
	Series	Jan	–	–	Jan	–	–
Ferranti	20	1	–	–	7	–	–
(*14)	25	½	–	–	12	–	–
	29	½	–	–	16	–	–
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Lucas	130	16	22	26	6	11	13
(*139)	140	9	16	20	10	16	17
	160	3	–	–	24	–	–
	Series	Dec	Feb	Apr	Dec	Feb	Apr
Fisons	330	50	58	61	1	3	5
(*379)	360	20	33	38	1	7½	13
	390	1½	16	23	14	21	26
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Abbey Nat	200	28	34	36	1	3	4½
(*227)	220	8	18	22	1	8½	11
	240	1	8	13	14	21	22
Amstrad	50	14	16½	19	½	2½	2½
(*63)	60	3	9½	13	½	4½	7½
	70	1	4	9	8	10	12
Barclays	330	27	43	45	1	13	19
(*353)	357	3	–	–	6	–	–
	393	1	–	–	42	–	–
Blue Circ	200	20	31	34	1	7	13
(*218)	220	2½	18	23	6	14	23
	240	1	11	15	24	28	34
Brit Gas	200	35	38	46	½	2½	4
(*234)	220	15	21	29	½	6	8
	240	1½	11	18	7	14	16
Dixons	130	8	16	22	1	7½	11
(*137)	140	1½	10	16	5	12	16
	160	1	5	9	26	27	28
Glaxo	800	56	88	112	1½	19	27
(*854)	850	11	57	82	8	38	43
	900	1	32	59	50	65	69
Hawker	390	42	60	68	2	12	25
(*434)	420	17	40	47	6	25	34
	460	2	20	25	42	60	62
Hillsdown	240	16	26	34	1	8	12
(*254)	260	2	17	22	9	16	21
	280	1	9	15	29	29	38
Lonrho	218	3	–	–	9	–	–
(*215)	236	1	–	–	25	–	–
Midland	180	18	30	37	1	10	13
(*198)	200	3	15	22	7	19	25
	220	1	8	15	25	33	38
Reuter	600	72	103	128	1	33	45
(*686)	650	20	73	102	6	53	67
	700	2	53	80	33	77	88
R-Royce	140	23	28	30	½	3½	6½
(*162)	160	3½	14½	17	2	10	13
	180	½	7	9	19	21	25
Sears	80	2½	6½	10½	2	5	8
(*81)	90	1	4½	6½	10	11	14
	100	1	1½	–	20	20	–
THF	240	10	25	29	1½	8	15
(*247)	260	2	11½	17	13	18	24
	280	1	8	12	34	35	38
Thorn EMI	600	72	95	115	1	10	15
(*699)	650	25	60	78	3	21	30
	700	1½	30	48	36	42	52
TSB	120	17	20	23	1	2	3
(*135)	130	7	13	17	1	4½	7
	140	1	6½	11	5	10½	15
Vaal Reefs	50	6	11	12	1½	6	7
(*$52)	60	1	6	9	9	13	14
Wellcome	390	55	72	87	1	10	15
(*444)	420	23	50	67	2	18	25
	460	2	30	45	22	37	42
	Series	Jan	Mar	May	Jan	Mar	May
Eastn Elec	130	15	20	24	2	4½	5
(*143)	140	8	13	18	5	6½	8
	160	1½	6	9	19	20	21
Southrn Elc	130	20	25	29	1½	3	4½
(*148)	140	12	18	22	3½	5	7½
	160	3	7½	11	15	16	17
Elc Package	1450	100	140	–	35	55	–
(*£1510)	1500	65	110	–	55	80	–
	1550	35	85	–	90	105	–

FT-SE INDEX (*2163)

	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250
Calls						
Dec	165	135	85	42	14	4
Jan	201	158	118	80	51	31
Feb	222	182	145	112	78	55
Mar	235	197	159	135	105	77
Jun	280	–	208	–	147	–
Puts						
Dec	2	3	8	13	40	80
Jan	16	21	29	45	73	107
Feb	28	36	48	63	88	113
Mar	37	46	61	75	98	128
Jun	59	–	88	–	127	–

[illegible]

STOCK MARKET

Kleinwort sees index rising

KLEINWORT Benson, the securities house, is forecasting a prosperous new year for its clients despite the recession and the threat of war in the Middle East.

Analysts at its global strategy conference were cautious about short-term prospects because of events in the Gulf. But they suggest that the next big upward movement in the FT-SE 100 index will take it to 2,700 as a combination of declines in inflation, interest rates and the oil price start to make an impact. The recession is also expected to be short-lived with the first signs of an upturn in the middle of next year when personal incomes start to grow.

Roger Palmer, at Kleinwort, says: "We are more bullish than our counterparts about events in 1991, but a war in the Middle East could still result in a sharp fall for the market."

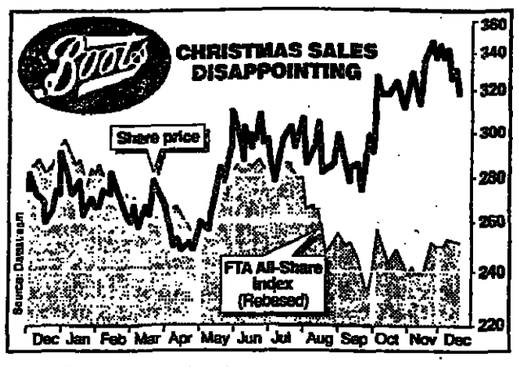
Kleinwort has also chosen its top ten shares for next year. They include **Kingfisher**, down 2p at 364p, **Glaxo**, 11p cheaper at 854p, **Unilever**, 5p better at 695p, **Grand Metropolitan**, up 8p at 656p, **British Gas**, 1p cheaper at 234p, **Thames Water**, 2p firmer at 264p, **Racal Electronics**, 2p easier at 186p, **Lucas Industries**, 3p dearer at 139p, **George Wimpey**, unchanged at 202p, and **General Accident**, 5p lower at 483p.

Hopes for a traditional pre-Christmas rally are growing thinner daily. Events in the Gulf continue to deter fund managers from investing in equities and even market-makers only seem interested in getting their books squared-up before the festive break. Trading is certain to remain thin in these conditions.

The FT-SE saw gains virtually halved, ending 3.9 higher at 2,161.8. The FT index of 30 shares rose 4.0 to 1,694.2.

Once again, the turnover figure of 575 million shares was inflated by the electricity shares where dealers reported the first signs of American buying. There were gains for **East Midlands**, 4p to 148p, **London Electricity**, 2½p to 146p, **Manweb**, 1p to 173p, **Midlands**, 2p to 144p, **Norweb**, 4p to 151p, **Southern**, 1p to 147½p, **South Wales**, 3p to 167p, and **Yorkshire**, 5p to 168p. **Seeboard** was unchanged at 149p but there were falls for **Northern**, 1p to 144p, and **Eastern**, ½p to 142½p. The electricity package, popular with the institutions, jumped £22 to £1,515.

The water companies, not to be outdone, enjoyed further institutional support in the wake of some bumper interim figures from **Wessex**, showing pre-tax profits jumping from £8.8 million to £34.9 million and a 20 per cent increase in the dividend. The Wessex price responded with a rise of 8p to 256p. There were also rises in **Anglian**, 4p to 273p, **Northumbrian**, 6p to 284p, **North West**, 3p to 263p, **Severn Trent**, 3p to 238p, **Southern**, 1p to 248p, **South West**, 2p to 263p, **Welsh**, 2p to 279p, and **Yorkshire**, 6p to 271p. The water package was £25 better at £2,605.



Government securities were affected by the latest public sector borrowing requirement. Losses at the longer end stretched to almost £½ in nervous trading.

The clearing banks continued to lose ground after a number of profit downgradings on Monday and the news that the Midland Bank had broken off merger talks with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking, its 15 per cent shareholder.

Hoare Govett, the broker, cut its forecast for **Barclays Bank** from £1.18 billion to £910 million while rival broker Warburg Securities went a step further and reduced its estimate from £1.14 billion to £875 million. Hoare also cut its estimate for **Midland** from £120 million to £50 million, for **Lloyds** from £785 million to £700 million and for **National Westminster** from £850 million to £680 million.

Midland led the way with a fall of 11p to 198p, Lloyds fell 4p to 282p, and NatWest 5p to 264p. Barclays recovered to finish 4p better at 354p.

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, fell 9p to 159p after the group announced it was sacking 10 per cent of its workforce because of a downturn in the art market. Autumn sales were halved, compared with last year's record £675 million, although in dollar terms the fall was only 39 per cent. Lord Carrington, the chairman, said the the group had decided to take prompt action to significantly reduce its cost base.

Boots, the high street chemist, fell 4p to 319p after a sell recommendation from BZW. The shares have outperformed the market, but Christmas sales appear to be disappointing and the group is likely to enter the new year with high stock levels. BZW has trimmed its forecast for the current year to £360 million compared with £342 million last time.

British Aerospace fell 7p to 522p to after a profits downgrading by Kleinwort Benson, which has cut its forecast for the current year from £370 million to £355 million and for next year by £65 million to £355 million. Kleinwort blames high redundancy costs and the downturn in the engineering industry.

NFC, formerly the government-owned National Freight Corporation, rose 7p to 123p after reporting a jump of £7.5 million to £97.7 million in annual pre-tax profits. The figures were at the top end of expectations but Jack Mather, the chief executive, issued a warning that the group would face difficult conditions in many of its markets next year.

Talk of profit downgradings left the **Shandwick** public relations group 10p cheaper at 63p and **Aegis** 11p down at 134p.

A buy recommendation from Hoare Govett lifted **Shell** by 9p to 459p but **Burmah** lost 8p to 505p as it tried to buy more **Fosseco** shares in the market-place.

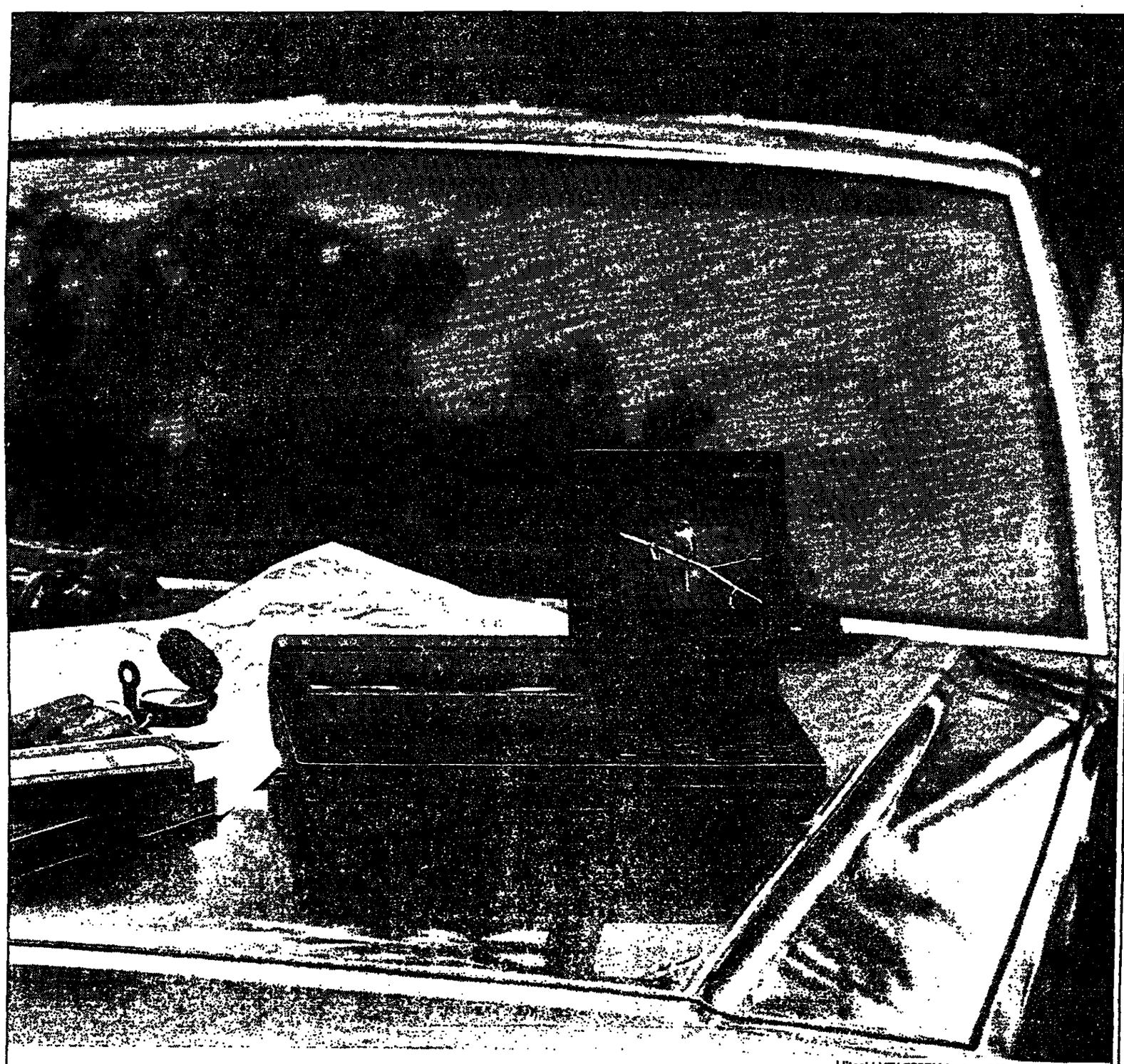
MICHAEL CLARK

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES							
Atlantis Resources	37	Faber Prest	145	Pelican Gp	33	● *See main prices page for Electricity shares*	
Aberforth Smlr Cos	99 −1	Golden Vale	53	Proeus Intl	96 −2		
Brabant Res	155	Invergordon	142	Seton Healthcare	141		
		Leading Ls New	2	St James Place	69 −1		
CMW Group	31	Levercrest	98	Smaller IT	70		
Castle Cairn (50p)	32	MMI	19	Stand Platform	180 −5		
ECU Tst	43			Tr Euro Gwth	89 −1		
		Malaysia Capital	26⅝	Utd Energy	1¼		
EFM Java Tst	35 +1	Midland Radio	108 +2	Utd Uniform	100 −3		
Eidos	103			Unichem	117		
Excalibur Gp	46	Paramount	9½	Wig Tps App	180 −1		
		Pittencrieff	90				

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Control Tech N/P	20
England (J) N/P	¼
Harvey & Thom N/P	2¾ −3¼
Surrey N/P	¼
Tuskar Res N/P	1½ −½

(Issue price in brackets).



Hitachi VT-LC50EM laptop AV is a creative fusion of advanced technologies. Simulated TV picture.

Law Report December 19 1990

Distasteful design can be registered

In re Masterman's Application

Before Mr Justice Aldous

[Judgment December 12]

In order to justify an exercise of discretion against registration of a design which was not in itself so immoral that a court of equity would refuse to lend its aid to its owner as against an infringer, it was not sufficient that the design might be merely regarded as distasteful to a substantial number of persons.

Mr Justice Aldous so held in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal by Mrs Pamela Clarissa Masterman of La Meule les Lande Clos, Lande du Marche, Vale, Guernsey, against the Registrar of Design's refusal, in reliance on section 3(3) of the Registered Designs Act 1949 and on the ground that registration would be likely to give offence to a not insubstantial number of persons, to register sheet 5 of her designs for a toy doll.

Section 3 of the 1949 Act provides: "(3) The registrar may refuse any application for the registration of a design or may register the design . . . subject to such modifications, if any, as he thinks fit"

Section 43 of the 1949 Act provides : "(1) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorising or requiring the registrar to register a design the use of which would, in his opinion, be contrary to law or morality."

Mr Paul Cole, chartered patent agent, for the appellant; Mr John Baldwin for the registrar.

MR JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the appeal arose from a wedding party in Guernsey attended by a Scotsman in a kilt. One of the wedding photographs had by accident betrayed the fact that he wore no underwear.

Mrs Masterman had been asked by the bride and groom to make a doll to commemorate the occasion. A series of similar commissions had followed and, ultimately, an application to register her design.

Sheet 5 showed what one saw when the doll's kilt was lifted: mimic male genitalia. The registry objected under both sections 3(3) and 43(1) of the 1949 Act and Mrs Masterman's appeal had been heard by Mr B. G. Harden, superintending examiner, acting for the registrar.

He had found in her favour under section 43(1) but against her on section 3(3) in the following words: "The registry has, following the guidance of the judgment of Mr Justice Evershed [in *La Marquise Footwear's Application* ((1947) 64 RPC 27)], taken a firm line in objecting to designs showing representation of genitalia since such . . . were considered to offend suceptibilities of certain members of the public by no means few in number."

Mr Cole had submitted that the registrar had no discretion but the history of the parallel legislation governing designs and patents, coupled with the language of section 3(3), had satisfied his Lordship to the contrary.

The question remained, had the superintending examiner exercised that discretion correctly? There was no reason why the registry should not establish guidelines but they could not be more than guidelines and in each case there had to be real grounds before an otherwise valid application could be rejected.

It had been suggested that for the design to be registered would be to give sheet 5 an official stamp of approval. That his Lordship could not accept. A registrar was acting entirely judicially, as distinct from administratively, in deciding whether a design was registrable.

No doubt it would be wrong to register a design which would offend the moral principles of right-thinking members of society but his Lordship found it hard to see anything worse against this particular design than that some people might regard it as distasteful; or why Parliament should be taken as wishing to deprive Mrs Masterman of the protection against infringement of her design which registration would afford.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Preference denied

In re P & C & R & T (Stockport) Ltd

Before Mr Justice Scott

[Judgment November 22]

Where a company, incorporated as one of four joint venturers and intended under the terms of the joint venture agreement to carry out the joint venture, became subject to an administration order, another of the four joint venture companies was not entitled to enforce the contractual obligations owed to it by the company under the joint venture agreement, so as, in effect, to place that other company in the position of a secured creditor to the detriment of the company's other creditors.

Mr Justice Scott so held in the Chancery Division in giving judgment on an application by the administrators of P & C & R & T (Stockport) Ltd for directions. The other joint venture companies were Provincial and City Property Co Ltd, Rush and Tompkins Group plc and Rush and Tompkins Property Ltd, the latter two companies being in liquidation.

Mr Ian Leeming, QC and Mr Ian Little for the administrators; Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Mr Robin Dicker for Provincial and City Property; Mr Brendan Hegarty for the Co-Operative Bank plc.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that although the joint venture agreement expressly provided that the joint venturers were not partners, the relationship between them nevertheless bore an analogy with partnership.

To permit the management provisions of the joint venture agreement to be specifically enforced against the administrators would be inconsistent with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and in particular with the purpose of section 14(4) of that Act.

Accordingly, the administrators were entitled to have the 199-year lease of the development site, which constituted the main asset of the joint venture, vested in the company, provided that a release from all obligations resting on the joint venture company, under the agreement for the lease or under the lease itself, was first obtained from the Co-Operative Bank, which had purchased the reversion from the local authority, the original lessor. It appeared that the obtaining such a release presented no problems.

Solicitors: Slater Heelis, Manchester; Nabarro Nathanson; Addleshaw Sons & Latham, Manchester.

Publication agreement was contract

Malcolm v Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford

An agreement between a publisher and an author for the publication of a book for a stated consideration and no more was a complete and enforceable contract.

Where there was a practice which, even in formal contracts, left matters such as print run to the discretion of the publisher, the failure to agree on such matters in an informal bargain that otherwise possessed the attributes of a binding contract did not entail that a contract did not exist for agreement would either later be made upon those matters or the publisher would decide.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Mustill dissenting, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Leggatt) so held in a reserved judgment on December 18 when allowing the appeal by Andrew Malcolm from the decision of Mr Gavin Lightman, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, (*The Times* March 23, 1990) that an enforceable contract had been made between Mr Malcolm and the delegates of Oxford University Press, when on May 20, 1985 a conditional contract for the publication of Mr Malcolm's book by the OUP was entered into on such words as expressed as "commitment" and "a fair royalty" during a telephone conversation between Mr Malcolm and a senior editor of the OUP.

Criticism of separate sentencing

Regina v Elias

It was unfortunate that one co-defendant was sentenced by a different judge from the judge passing sentence on another co-defendant.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Pill) stated on November 26, when reducing a sentence from four years to 30 months in a young offender institution.

Michael Anthony Elias, aged 17, appealed against the four-year sentence imposed on February 2 at St Albans Crown Court by Judge Rodwell, QC, on pleas of guilty to robbery and theft with 14 other offences taken into consideration.

Mark Mathurin, aged 17, who had pleaded guilty to the robbery and also burglary but not guilty to another offence, was placed on probation for two years by Judge Hickman at St Albans Crown Court on June 15.

MR JUSTICE PILL giving the judgment of the court, said that it was unfortunate that the appellant and the co-defendant were sentenced by different judges.

Their Lordships would echo what was said in *R v Forde* (*The Times*, June 18), in which co-defendants had been sentenced by different judges and the Court of Appeal said that it was a most undesirable practice where the reason for transferring a case was apparently one of administrative convenience rather than any good reason in law or practice.

Judicial review apt

Regina v Leicester Crown Court, Ex parte S

The decision of a crown court whether to exercise its power under section 39 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 to allow publication of particulars identifying a young person was not a "matter relating to trial on indictment" within section 29(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and was therefore subject to judicial review.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Roch) so held in a reserved judgment on December 4 when allowing an application for judicial review by *certiorari* to quash the decision of Judge Young at Leicester Crown Court on November 20, 1989 who had discharged a direction by Judge Wilde at the same court on August 11, 1989, that no report of proceedings in which the applicant was charged with arson should disclose his name or any particulars which could lead to his identification.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the decision to exercise or not to exercise the power in section 39 of the 1933 Act was neither an integral part of the trial process nor did it affect the course or the conduct of the trial; consequently such decisions were reviewable by the

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Small gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 10. Dealings end December 28. §Contango day December 31. Settlement day January 7.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 24).

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio *Platinum* card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	MEPC (aa)	Property	
2	Hawker Siddly (aa)	Industrials E-K	
3	Provident	Banks,Discount	
4	P & O Dfd (aa)	Transport	
5	Cable Wireless (aa)	Electricals	
6	Wolvrhmptn & D	Breweries	
7	Wellcome (aa)	Industrials S-Z	
8	Hardy O & G	Oil,Gas	
9	APV	Industrials A-D	
10	Honda Motor	Motors,Aircraft	
11	Barclays (aa)	Banks,Discount	
12	Woodside	Oil,Gas	
13	Hepworth	Industrials E-K	
14	Ward Group	Building,Roads	
15	Scholes Grp	Electricals	
16	South West	Water	
17	North West	Water	
18	Johnstone Press	Newspapers,Pub	
19	Imp Chem Ind (aa)	Chemicals,Plas	
20	Goal Pet	Oil,Gas	
21	SET Ord (aa)	Industrials A-D	
22	Scot & New (aa)	Breweries	
23	Johnson Matthey	Industrials E-K	
24	Amec	Building,Roads	
25	Racal Telecom (aa)	Electricals	
26	Grovewood Sec	Industrials E-K	
27	Vickers	Industrials S-Z	
28	NFC	Transport	
29	Slough Estates (aa)	Property	
30	Tomkinsons	Textiles	
31	Swire Pacific 'A'	Industrials S-Z	
32	Wessex Water	Water	
33	Barr (AG)	Foods	
34	Br Vita	Industrials A-D	
35	Unilever (aa)	Industrials S-Z	
36	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	Breweries	
37	Yorkshire Water	Water	
38	Campari	Leisure	
39	T & S Stores	Drapery,Stores	
40	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	
41	Allied Colloids	Chemicals,Plas	
42	Owners Abroad	Leisure	
43	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
44	Gold Greenless	Paper,Print,Adv	
	© Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Two readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Nancy Markham, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Mr Timothy Dale, of Southampton, each receive £1,000.

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
478	373	Joseph (Leopold)	385	390●	–	21.1	3.8	11.7
150	105	King & Shaxson	122	127	–	13.7	11.0	10.0
422	262	Kleinwort Benson	283	287	–	21.3	7.5	7.2
316	222	Lloyds (aa)	380	383	-4	18.7	8.8	–
56	44	Lon Scot Bk	48	51	+1	3.4	6.8	10.5
401	178	Midland (aa)	190	200	-11	24.0	12.1	–
326	210	Nat Aust Bk	218	223	–			
308	227	Nat West (aa)	262	265	-5	20.3	8.8	15.2
428	362	Provident	408	414	+3	28.7	7.0	10.0
51	28	Rea Bros	25	30	–	0.7	2.5	13.4
224	119	Ryl Bk Scot (aa)	153	155●	-4	11.2	7.3	7.3
902	613	Schroders	685	710	–	22.2	3.2	9.5
815	236	Stand Chart (aa)	258	262	–	40.7	16.0	–
147	114	TSB (aa)	134	138	-2	8.1	6.0	20.4
611	420	Union Disc	560	570	+2	44.0	7.8	30.5
575	284	Warburg SG	326	333	-1	20.0	6.0	5.8
179	58	Do 6% 'A'	123	110	–	8.0	7.0	–
59¼	21⅛	Wells Fargo	28¼		–	–	–	–
278	147	Westpac	145	149	–			
420	330	Wintrust	305	310	–	11.6	3.8	8.2

BREWERIES

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
520	408	Allied-Lyons (aa)	485	488●	+2	23.4	4.8	10.2
11¾	896	Bass (aa)	10¼	10½●	+¼	43.2	4.0	8.6
170	125	Boddington	138	140	–	7.2	5.2	14.5
206	161	Bulmer (H P)	185	195	-4	10.5	5.6	14.3
227	131	Burtonwood Brew	127	135●	-4	5.3	4.0	12.2
400	290	Clark (Matthew)	352	362	+12	18.0	5.0	12.4
288	115	Devenish (JA)	140	148	+10	7.1	4.9	8.8
115	40	[illegible]	55	58	–			
661	521	Grand Met (aa)	654	658	+8	27.2	4.1	10.2
369	225	Greenall Wht	323	327	+1	13.3	4.1	8.5
423	313	Greene King	385	390	–	13.8	3.5	13.9
823	530	Guinness (aa)	773	779	+2	21.7	2.8	16.4
955	650	Hardys & Hansons	673	683	+3	44.7	6.6	10.6
279	182	Highland Dist	250	257●	–	8.4	2.5	19.3
610	375	Macallan	415	425●	-3	15.3	3.6	19.0
222	180	Marston Thompson	188	193●	–	5.8	2.9	15.5
300	250	Morland	240	265●	–	8.8	3.4	8.0
730	453	SA Breweries	595	610●	–			
352	278	Scot & New (aa)	382	385	+7	18.2	5.0	13.1
279	191	Vaux Group	203	210	–	11.7	5.7	10.2
470	380	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	450	453●	+4	20.4	4.5	12.8
14¼	11¼	Do 'B'	13	14●	-¼	20.4	1.5	37.7
430	339	Wolvrhmptn & D	413	422	+7	12.4	3.0	11.8
495	425	Young 'A'	415	435	-5	16.0	3.8	20.2

BUILDING, ROADS

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
130	50	Abbey	55	65	–			
594	150	AMEC	205	209●	+8	13.0	6.3	6.1
142	25	Anglia Sec	23	27	–			
155	82	Arncliffe	75	80	–	8.0	10.6	2.1
531	203	Arnwoods	212	217●	–	8.3	2.9	18.7
259	180	BPB Ind (aa)	173	177●	+2	15.0	6.6	7.5
144	72	Baggeridge Brick	68	75	-2	4.2	5.8	8.5
71	25	Bailey (Ben) Constr	28	33●	-2	2.5	8.1	3.2
285	84	Baxter Group	99	105	–	5.1	5.0	10.6
215	88	Barratt Devs	85	89	–	12.0	12.4	10.2
178	82	Beazer PLC (aa)	93	96●	-1	10.3	10.8	5.5
217	144	Bellway	210	213●	-1	14.7	6.9	19.3

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

ELECTRICITY

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 26

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRANSPORT

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
248	181	Transport Dev	208	212	–	12.7	6.0	12.0
245	140	Turnbull Scott	130	150	–	12.0	8.6	3.9

WATER

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
287	209	Anglian Water	271	275	+4	20.4	7.5	8.4
298	215¼	Northumbrian	282	286	+6	21.4	7.5	3.5
278	211¼	North West	261	264	+3	21.0	8.0	5.7
248	190	Severn Trent	238	239	+3	19.8	8.3	4.1
250	181	Stoh Water	245	250	+1	20.0	8.1	5.3
281	200	South West	260	265	+2	23.2	8.8	4.2
288	209	Thames Water	262	265	+2	21.4	8.1	6.5
298	219	Welsh Water	277	280	+2	22.4	8.0	4.5
282	203	Wessex Water	254	258	+8	20.3	7.9	4.9
288	221¼	Yorkshire Water	270	272	+6	20.6	7.6	5.8
£2780	£2000	Package Unit	£2605		+£25			

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
215	85	Claymond Savings	80	90	–	–	–	–
65	28	Edderton	25	30	–	–	–	–
18	5	Far E Res	5	7	–	–	–	–
100	65	Hilclyn	65	75	–	1.3	1.9	8.5
17	2½	Homedix	–	–	–	–	–	–
23	4	Kemp (PE)	5	7	–	–	–	–
57	2	Leading Lsr	1	3	–	–	–	–
35	27	UFL	28	35	–	–	–	–
80	8	Video Magic Co	5	10	–	–	–	1.9

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 93.3 (day's range 93.2-93.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 18

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9285-1.9375	1.9345-1.9355	1.03-1.02pr	2.74-2.72pr
Montrl	2.2303-2.2446	2.2382-2.2423	0.54-0.50pr	0.91-0.82pr
Amstrdm	3.2353-3.2424	3.2355-3.2391	1⅛-1¼pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	59.25-59.59	59.25-59.46	24-19pr	58-51pr
Copnhgn	11.0896-11.1213	11.0905-11.1156	3⅝-3⅛pr	8⅝-8⅛pr
Dublin	1.0798-1.0814	1.0798-1.0808	35-29pr	71-62pr
Frankft	2.8692-2.8756	2.8704-2.8738	1⅛-1⅛pr	3-2⅛pr
Lisbon	253.12-254.66	253.42-254.52	44-24pr	par-61ds
Madrid	183.11-184.35	183.58-184.26	4-13ds	28-31ds
Milan	2165.22-2173.66	2166.64-2170.86	3-1pr	6-4pr
Oslo	11.2547-11.3014	11.2685-11.2917	3½-2⅝pr	6½-5⅝pr
Paris	9.7640-9.7921	9.7673-9.7820	3⅝-3⅛pr	8⅜-7⅝pr
Stckhlm	10.8054-10.8500	10.8139-10.8388	par-⅛ds	1⅛-1⅛ds
Tokyo	256.68-257.52	257.19-257.52	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅝pr
Vienna	20.1710-20.2308	20.1710-20.2006	9⅝-8⅛pr	24-20⅛pr
Zurich	2.4555-2.4620	2.4568-2.4600	1⅛-1⅛pr	3-2⅛pr

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	9675.0-9699.0
Australia dollar	2.5123-2.5169
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	294.70-295.63
Cyprus pound	0.8240-0.8340
Finland marka	6.9250-6.9850
Greece drachma	298.40-301.60
Hong Kong dollar	15.1089-15.1188
India rupee	34.81-35.25
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.2299-5.2345
Mexico peso	5630.0-5760.0
New Zealand dollar	3.2942-3.3016
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3335-3.3373
S Africa rand (fin)	6.5661-6.3828
S Africa rand (com)	4.8851-4.8935
U A E dirham	n/a

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Extel and Barclays Bank GTS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.7940-1.7955	Denmark	5.7320-5.7370	Italy	1119.0-1120.0
Singapore	1.7210-1.7220	Germany	1.4825-1.4835	Belgium (Com)	30.68-30.73
Malaysia	2.7000-2.7010	Switzerland	1.2885-1.2892	Hong Kong	7.8002-7.8012
Australia	1.2970-1.2987	Netherlands	1.6735-1.6745	Portugal	131.00-131.20
Canada	1.1567-1.1577	France	5.0450-5.0500	Spain	94.90-95.00
Sweden	5.5900-5.5950	Japan	133.00-133.10	Austria	10.43-10.45
Norway	5.8250-5.8300				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Extel.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans %

Overnight High: 15 Low 13 Week fixed: 14⅛

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Buying: 2 mth — 13¹⁷⁄₃₂ 3 mth — 13⁷⁄₃₂

Selling: 2 mth — 13¹⁵⁄₃₂ 3 mth — 13⁵⁄₃₂

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 13⅝-13²³⁄₃₂

2 mth: 13⁹⁄₁₆-13½ 3 mth: 13⅛-13⁵⁄₁₆ 6 mth 12⅝-12⁷⁄₁₆

Trade Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 14⅛

2 mth: 14³⁄₁₆ 3 mth: 13⅞ 6 mth 13⅜

Interbank (%). Overnight: open 14⅛ close 14⅛

1 week: 14⁵⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆ 1 mth: 14⅛-14³⁄₁₆ 3 mth: 14¹⁄₃₂-14

6 mth: 13¹³⁄₃₂-⅝ 9 mth: 13-12¹⁵⁄₁₆ 12 mth: 12¹³⁄₁₆-12⅝

Local Authority Deposits (%)

2 day: 14⅛ 7 day: 14⅛ 1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆

3 mth: 13¹⁄₃₂ 6 mth: 13⅜ 12 mth: 12⅛

Sterling CDs (%): 1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆-14³⁄₁₆

3 mth: 14-13¹⁵⁄₁₆ 6 mth: 13⅛-13⅛ 12 mth 12⅛-12⅛

Dollar CDs (%): 1 mth: 8.40-8.35

3 mth: 8.00-7.95 6 mth: 7.75-7.70 12 mth 7.65-7.60

Building Society CDs (%)

1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆-³⁄₁₆ 2 mth: 14³⁄₁₆-¹⁄₁₆ 3 mth: 14¹⁄₁₆-14

6 mth: 13⅜-13⅛ 9 mth: 13¹⁄₁₆-12⅞ 12 mth: 12⅝-12⅝

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct 31, 1990. Agreed rates Nov 26, 1990 to Dec 25, 1990. Scheme I: 15.08 per cent. Schemes II & III: 15.32 per cent. Reference rate Sept 29, 1990 to Oct 31, 1990. Scheme IV & V: 14.164 per cent.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar:	7⅛-7	8⅛-8¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-7⅞	7⅞-7⁹⁄₁₆
Call: 7⅛-6⅞				
Deutschemark:	8⅞-8⅝	9⅝-9½	9⅝-9½	9⅝-9⅝
Call: 8½-7¼				
French Franc:	10-9⅞	10¹⁄₁₆-9⅞	10⅛-10⅛	10⁹⁄₁₆-½
Call: 10-9				
Swiss Franc:	9⅛-8⅞	9⅛-9⅛	9⅛-8¹⁵⁄₁₆	8⅞-8⅛
Call: 8-7				
Yen:	8⁹⁄₁₆-8⁷⁄₁₆	8⅛-8	8¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁵⁄₁₆	8¹⁄₁₆-7¹⁵⁄₁₆
Call: 7⅛-6⅛				

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

Open: $375.80-376.20 Close: $376.90-377.40

High: $376.50-377.00 Low: $375.20-375.70

GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT)

Britannia: $387.00-389.00 (£200.00-201.50)

Krugerrand: $376.50-377.50 (£194 50-195.50)

Mapleleaf (1/1oz): $388.00-389.00 (£200.50-201.50)

American Eagles: $388.00-389.00 (£200 50-201.50)

New Sovereigns: $90.00-91.00 (£46.50-47.25)

Old Sovereigns: $90.50-91.50 (£46.50-47.50)

PRECIOUS METALS

Platinum pm fix: $413.75 (£213.70)

Palladium pm fix: $88.20 (£45.55)

Spot Silver: $3.95-3.97 (£2.04-2.05)

Rates supplied by Baird & Co

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100			Previous open interest 29797		
Dec 90	2172.0	2184.0	2167.0	2178.5	3158
Mar 91	2210.0	2222.0	2206.0	2217.0	1232
Three Month Sterling			Previous open interest 149231		
Dec 90	86.00	86.01	85.96	85.97	6389
Mar 91	87.55	87.67	87.47	87.51	13214
Three Month Eurodollar			Previous open interest 26579		
Mar 91	92.69	92.74	92.67	92.73	3377
Jun 91	92.81	92.86	92.79	92.82	348
Three Month Euro DM			Previous open interest 62017		
Mar 91	90.64	90.67	90.63	90.67	4773
Jun 91	90.79	90.83	90.79	90.82	1480

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three month ECU			Previous open interest 853		
Mar 91	89.72	89.75	89.72	89.74	40
US Treasury Bond			Previous open interest 8955		
Dec 90	96-29	97-05	96-29	97-03	83
Long Gilt			Previous open interest 27251		
Dec 90	89-16	89-16	89-07	88-28	8
Mar 91	89-25	89-25	89-04	89-12	10839
Japanese Govt Bond			Previous open interest 568		
Mar 91	95.70	95.73	95.53	95.70	87
German Govt Bond			Previous open interest 84552		
Mar 91	83.60	83.85	83.58	83.73	11500
Jun 91	83.60	83.80	83.75	83.80	310

COMMODITIES

LONDON OIL REPORTS - London 6.00pm: In the absence of any headlines, crude oil prices drifted lower, although there was a distinct lack of activity. Product moved lower with the futures.

CRUDE OILS/assessed ($/BBL FOB)

Brent Phys	27.45	–0.45
15 day Jan	27.10	–0.35
15 day Feb	25.80	–0.20
WTI Jan	27.00	–0.30
WTI Feb	26.40	–0.05

PRODUCTS Buy/sell $/MT.
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery

Prem Gas .15	–1	245-250	n/a
Gasoil EEC	–2	257-259	–2
Non 1H Jan	–1	263-264	–1
Non 1H Feb	–2	249-250	–2
3.5 Fuel Oil	n/a	137-139	n/a
Naphtha	–1	263-268	–1

BIFFEX
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

Dec 90 Hi 1460-1440 Low Close 1460
Jan 91 Hi 1475-1455 Low Close 1475
Apr 91 Hi 1375-1355 Low Close 1375
Jul 91 Hi 1100-1090 Low Close 1088
Vol 282 lots Open Interest 4133
Dry cargo index 1438 +1

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL AMT Futures
Jan 250.00-49.75
Feb 237 50-38.50
Mar 222.00 BID
Apr 210.00-07.00
May 204.00-01.00
Jun 199.00 BID
Jul 198.50-97.00
Vol 4473

BRENT AMT Futures
Jan 27 15-27.20
Feb 25.85-25.90
Vol n/a

LONDON POTATO FUTURES (£/tonne)

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	825	90.0
Apr	1328	133.5
May	1530	153.0

Vol 124

LONDON FOX

COCOA AMT Futures
Dec 815-805 Sep 749-748
Mar 682-681 Dec 780-778
May 696-695 Mar 806-805
Jul 724-723 Vol 8177

COFFEE AMT Futures
Jan 619-617 Sep 622-621
Mar 588-587 Nov 636-634
May 593-592 Jan 648-647
Jul 608-606 Vol 2772

SUGAR C Czarnikow
FOB Vol: 759
Mar 217.0-16.6 Oct 222.0-21.0
May 219.4-18.6 Dec 222.0-18.0
Aug 222.2-22.0 Mar 225.0-21.0

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT close (£/t) Vol 129
Ja 119.45 Mr 122.90 My 126.40
Jn 126.00 Sp 106.75 Nv 111.35

BARLEY close (£/t) Vol 168
Ja 115.25 Mr 118.20 My 120.35
Sp 106.10 Nv 109.10 Ja 112.80

HI-PRO SOYABEAN Vol 60
Feb 119.0-16.0 Aug 123.0-21.5
Apr 120.5-19.5 Oct 125.0-24.0
Jun 122.5-21.5 Dec 127.0-26.0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official prices/volume previous day Rudolf Wolff

(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol
Copper Gde A	1299.0-1300.0	1305.0-1310.0	910400
Lead	311.00-313.00	325.50-326.00	98150
Zinc Spec Hi*	1254 5-1255.5	1254.5-1255.5	190425
Tin*	5655.0-5660.0	5760.0-5785.0	15000
Aluminium Hi*	1539.0-1540 0	1572.0-1573.0	925125
Nickel*	7970.0-7975.0	7975.0-8000.0	15770

† (Cents per Troy oz). * ($ per tonne)

FOX MGMI INDEX

	Bid	Offer
Jan	158.40	159.40
Feb	158 70	159.80
Mar	158.60	159.40

● 5pm prices Vol: 420

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (/kg)

Live Pig Vol: 25

Mth	Open	Close
Jan	unq	90.0
Feb	unq	91.3
Mar	unq	94.5

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Av'ge fatstock prices at representative markets on December 18

(/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB (p)	73.67	137 43	103.87
GB (+/-)	+0.20	–8.04	–6.48
Eng/Wal (%)	–8.5	–13.5	–37.7
Eng/Wal (p)	73.02	136.91	103.21
Eng/Wal (+/-)	+1.88	–0.81	–3.99
Scotland (%)	–56 3	–32.3	–76 1
Scotland (p)	80.77	131.81	106.11
Scotland (+/-)	–0.36	–8.65	–6.57

* Estimated dead carcase weight

an application for judicial re- cisions were reviewable by the

هكذا من الأصل

When duty calls over Christmas

Charles Wintour discovers where the printing presses will roll during the festivities

Matthew Pris recently revealed at when he was an IP he spent Christm Day visiting hospitals and institions. He said this was rather dressing, since most of those judd fit enough to know who they vere had been judged fit enough to spend Christmas at home, sme was left with those who were unlikely to know who *he* was, let one appreciate his attentions. Bume did it because the MP for Wst Derbyshire had always *done it*. *I was a job of work.*

Journalists ave not always done it, but most othem will be doing it this year. Since Rupert Murdoch stunned the rint unions in 1986 by *moving ll his* newspapers to Wapping overnight, the newspaper industry ha become, on the whole, more profitable and also more competitive. Further, most of the industry's new agreements with journalist and production staff cover woking throughout the year so that in general, no extra paymens are due for working on Christmas Day on papers that will be distributed on Boxing Day.

Bert Hardy, the managing director of Associated Newspapers, claims that Boxing Day publication of the *Daily Mail* "has become an economic proposition". Of course, sales will be well down — some suggest that the tabloids may lose 40 per cent of their sales — but careful estimating will cut the print order to the appropriate figure, leading to substantial savings in paper and ink. At the very least he does not expect to lose money on Boxing Day, and he will maintain continuity of publication.

No other publisher seemed quite so sanguine about the economic *benefits of Boxing Day publication*, but over at Express Newspapers the managing director, Andrew Cameron, agrees about the virtues of continuity. In these competitive times he says it is *essential* "to maintain a presence". He reckons that as many as 60 per cent of the newsagents may not open, but if they are placed in a high street that is almost *empty of pedestrians he* understands their reluctance to open up.

Ernie Burrington, the managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers, says, after *reflection*, that the *Daily Mirror* will be publishing "to entertain our readers". He reckons they will need entertainment after the rigours of Christmas Day itself. Meanwhile, the newspaper division of News International will be publishing three newspapers on Boxing Day — the *Sun*, *Today* and *The Times*. John Dux, the managing director, agrees that the *Sun*'s sales will be reduced, but feels that publication *is necessary as a service to readers*. As for *The Times*, he expects a good day, since in the absence of other broadsheet papers newsagents may well deliver *The Times as a substitute*. He says the editor was initially sceptical, but came round to the idea after he had studied the figures.

But *why aren't* the other broadsheets joining in what seems like a general and unexpected burst of philanthropy? They give a variety of reasons. Peter Preston, the chairman and editor of the *Guardian*, says: "Left to myself I'd publish every day of the week and three times on Sundays." But he reckons that "Christmas Day still *has a small ring fence around it*" and he does not wish to break that down just yet.

The *Independent*'s deputy and *executive editor*, Matthew Symonds, says "we look at the costs every year", and so far the costs (involving contract printers) outweigh the *revenue*, *although* the sum involved is not large. Further, he says that there is absolutely no pressure from readers. Not a single letter of complaint about non-publication has been received in four years. At the *Daily Telegraph*, the executive editor, Jeremy Deedes, with a proper Conservative respect for tradition, says "we never have done", and adds that a lot of the suppliers "like a day in bed".

Ronald Newton, who runs an efficient newsagents in Canonbury Place, Islington, north London, will say "Amen" to that. "It's unfair to the kids," he says, "to tell them not to stay up late on Christmas Day or New Year's Eve because they have to deliver early the next day. Some are 17 or 18 years old." Nor does he think it worthwhile to open up the shop. "We used to open on Boxing Day," he says, "and we'd kick our heels until lunch. Then there would be all the heating and lighting; it just wasn't worth it." So Mr Newton is closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

In Tisbury, Wiltshire, Michael Ingall, of Pickerings Newsagents, is not all that happy at Boxing Day publication either. "We will sell them, but we won't deliver," he says. "If we delivered *The Times* instead of the *Guardian*, some would like it and some would not. Also I feel it's unfair to ask the delivery boys to turn out."

Of course, many newsagents both open the shop and deliver. Jock Oram, columnist of the *Progressive Newsagent*, says: "Continuous publication has taken away one of the very few days off that newsagents can enjoy. Of course, continuity is valuable. But is it worth it to the newsagent? Some do deliveries and then close up. Others stay open most of the day. Everyone has to make their own judgment."

As for the readers, some may well be suffering from a surfeit of family festivities and relish the thought of having a newspaper to retire behind. newsprint drug, addicted to withdrawal symp- may be fe hristmas Day, and toms aft the latest scraps of long to about Mrs Major's inform nner at Chequers or turke ns about new faces on rev tion Street. As I intend to C Boxing Day at Wincanton s, I shall be looking for andarin's advice on how to invest" my money. Maybe that's as good a reason as any for having newspapers on Boxing Day.

JAMES GRAY

Time out: newsagents like to give paperboys such as Neil Lewis, aged 14, of east Lo , a break

Television's state-of-the art news

ITN is settling into a new £120 million home. Now it needs tenants to help pay the bills

"IT HAS been a fingers-crossed operation," said Stewart Purvis, the editor of Independent Television News, on Monday night, shortly before his company's *Channel 4 News* went on the air for the first time from its new headquarters in London's Gray's Inn Road. In the bowels of the £120 million building, last-minute modifications were still being made to the virgin studio. In the event, the 50-minute broadcast went without a hitch.

ITN is phasing the move from its *rrent cramped quarters off Oxford* Street. By the weekend, all programmes, including its flagship *ews At Ten*, will be broadcast om the new building. The climax f a carefully managd operation as designed to take place during ne of the year's dull nws periods. Gulf willing, from Thursday *News At Ten* will not have to put out a full 30-minute bulletin until January 2.

Ambitions to make its mark as an international news organisation to rival the American networks, *ITN, under its then editor and* chief executive, now chairman, Sir David Nicholas, had been looking *to expand* since 1982. After inspecting a dozen other sites, including Bedford College, it agreed to pay News International £12 million for the old *Times* and *Sunday Times offices* in 1987.

ITN initially considered developing the complex itself. Wiser counsels prevailed. It decided to stick to news broadcasting *and sold the site on to a developer*, Stanhope Properties, for an undisclosed sum.

As part of its overall expenditure of £120 million, Stanhope gutted the building and hired award-winning architects Norman Foster and Associates to design an appropriate media palace for the 21st century. Making use of a curious shape, Foster came up with what in effect are two blue-tinted glass structures around a central, quasi-rectangular atrium.

ITN agreed to rent the whole development back. It intends to use five floors and let five others. Flush with the sale of its former Wells Street headquarters for £24 million at the start of this year, it has spent £45 million kitting out its new building, including £18 million on broadcasting equipment and installation.

en able to budgeted to illion a year. This hole in s at a time when balance sheet ying to maximise the company and preparing to its profitab cent of its equity by sell off 51 quired by the new 1994, a Act.

So far, ITN has found a client for off bring income of £100 million This hole in s at a time when balance sheet ying to maximise the company and preparing to its profitab cent of its equity by sell off 51 quired by the new 1994, a Act.

Broadcasting News editor of *Channel 4* hom was jubilant about the *New* running of the programme. sis also chairman of the joint ps of ITN's four unions, and earing that hat, he says: "The impression is that the company has overstretched itself by the way it has moved into this building." ITN has recently been asked to find 36 voluntary redundancies.

Paul Mathews, ITN's deputy chief executive, says the old offices were seriously overcrowded. "Of course, it is terribly important that we let the new building long term. But obviously we've planned for a *certain period of void*. We're looking for a mixture of professional people." One possibility is that one of the American television networks might be attracted to share the expensive new broadcasting facilities. Finding new tenants will be high on Bob Phillis's agenda when he joins ITN as chief executive from Carlton Communications in February.

ANDREW LYCETT

MEDIA WATCH

Under attack

DESPITE dramatic moves wards democracy in eed Europe, South Afric on Chile, systematic atte in press freedom cor Intermany countries, e's 1990 national Press In *m Review World Press Fr* has found. the govern-

In Roma trols printing ment still d newspapers facilities, constant harass- have su nty-eight journal- ment. prison in Turkey, ists s others have been and ed. In South Africa, m an editor was convicted October of breaching the otection of Information ct, several journalists have been beaten and one killed. In *Chile, journalists continue to* be jailed.

Video cashes in

EUROPEAN consumer spending on video rentals and sales in 1989 exceeded $4 billion, one and a half times the sum spent on watching films at the cinema, a study by *Screen Digest* has revealed. However, the European rental market is forecast to slip by 10 per cent from $3.36 billion in 1988 to $3.02 billion this year as a result of competition from satellite and cable channels.

Listings fight

REGIONAL newspaper editors are refusing to pay the BBC and Independent Television Publications (ITP) for daily television listings information when the duopoly of *Radio Times* and *TV Times* is broken in March. ITP plans to charge fees ranging from £1,500 to £50,000 depending on circulation. The Guild of British Newspaper Editors says newspapers would be prepared to pay only "an equitable fee" for seven-day information.

Greek accent

BRITAIN's first Greek television channel, Hellenic TV, has begun broadcasting daily local news, current affairs and entertainment programmes for north London's Greek and Cypriot communities. The new channel is available on Cable London, which serves about 12,000 homes.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

The Thatcher factor stirs the market

Agents at the top of the market are hopeful despite the recession, Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent, discovers

A 17th century Covent Garden rarity: £530,000

Mrs Thatcher has relinquished office, but it is difficult to avoid her presence in any field of activity in which she takes part. Property is no exception.

Mark Thatcher gave a foretaste of the family property story in October when he bought a house in Tregunter Road, South Kensington, from Peter de Savary, the entrepreneur. For some months, there have been rumours and reported sightings of Denis Thatcher viewing London properties away from the Dulwich home the couple bought in 1985.

The latest report, that the Thatchers are considering a large house in Tite Street, Chelsea, priced at £7.5 million, has been met with a dead bat, to continue the metaphor Mrs Thatcher used about the leadership issue, from the agent Savills, whose discretion is jealously preserved. The possibility of a Thatcher move, to there or anywhere else, has none the less enlivened the scene.

Back at Dulwich Gate, Hamptons is offering a house of identical architectural design to Mrs Thatcher's Barratt house, 50 yards away. The house is being sold by a "high-flying stockbroker who holds two world altitude records for hang-gliding and civilian free-fall parachuting", as Andrew Lever, of Hamptons, Dulwich, describes the owner.

The Thatcher house is valued at around £600,000, and for this house, one of the biggest in Dulwich Gate, with six bedrooms and four bathrooms, the agent is asking more than £500,000.

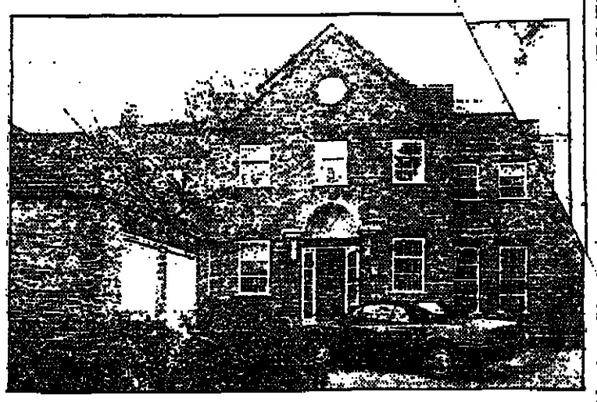
In the upper London market, Noel Flint, of Knight Frank & Rutley, rejects the suggestion that there has been nothing doing for months. "The volume of sales is down compared with last year, but there are houses being bought and sold," he says. "Most of the interest seems to be at £350,000 to £750,000, although there have been sales at more than £1 million."

He says many buyers are seeking an investment. "Also, some buyers are waiting for bargains, waiting for distress sales, but there are not as many as they would wish," he says. "That is happening at the lower end of the market."

Mr Flint does not expect any great change in the short term, although the underlying feeling is that things will not get any worse.

"I believe we are at the bottom of the curve, but I cannot see the magic ingredient to give it the impetus upwards," he says. "The next general election is on people's minds, and perhaps that needs to be out of the way, with signs that the recession is coming to an end, before the property market gathers momentum."

Barnard Marcus, which has offices throughout London, has seen a growth in confidence in the past six months. Robin Paterson, its managing director, says properties at the lower end of the market levelled out in September-October, resulting in a shortage of properties for first-time buyers. The drop in interest rates accelerated the recovery in the market. Prices in the middle and upper ranges levelled in November, and throughout the entire market in December there has seen an acute shortage of quality properties for sale.



Just like Mrs Thatcher's Dulwich house: price £500,000-plus

Because there is a shortage of houses on the market, Mr Paterson believes that property at the lower end could rise by as much as 3 per cent in the first six months of 1991 and prices could stay level in the middle to upper end.

An illustration of the way in which prices have fallen as the boom has turned to bust is shown by Six Pillars, on the Dulwich College estate in southeast London, not far from Dulwich Gate. Six Pillars is a Grade II listed house built in 1935 and designed by the Tecton Partnership, whose founder, Berthold Lubetkin, died in October. It is a Le Corbusier-inspired five-bedroom house built for a former head of Dulwich College preparatory school. Roy Brooks's Peckham office is asking £295,000, reduced from the December 1988 price of £445,000.

Not all properties on offer have seen such a reduction, but prices have invariably been adjusted.

There are only ten freehold houses in Covent Garden. Hamptons, with E.A. Shaw, is selling two, both in Tower Court, and dating from the late 17th century. They have the original fireplaces, wall panelling, plasterwork and staircase. They have ten rooms altogether spread over five floors.

One is unmodernised and priced at about £400,000. The second is modernised and is a main three-bedroom house, with a self-contained maisonette. The price is £530,000.

IN THE MARKET

☐ The Old Post Office at Chastleton, near Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, is the home of Penelope Mortimer, the author and amateur gardener. She recently combined the two talents in her screenplay for *Portrait of a Marriage*, the biography of Vita Sackville-West shown on BBC2, and her garden has a border copied from one planted by Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst. The 18th-century, Grade II listed cottage was originally built as a head gardener's cottage and stands in two-thirds of an acre of gardens which have been open under a national garden scheme. It has three bedrooms, two reception rooms and a study, and is for sale at about £185,000 through Lane-Fox's Cirencester office.

☐ Ancsle Court, near Faversham, one of Kent's most notable medieval timber houses, which had been abandoned for more than 40 years, has new lease of life after its sale at auction last week for £240,000. The Grade I listed property, on the home of the Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber in Elizabeth I's reign, had a guide price of £200,000-plus through the agent Jackson-Stops & Staff. Two acres in the grounds, with a guide price of between £10,000 and £20,000, were sold separately for £9,000. More than 400 enquiries were received before the auction, which in a buoyant market would be considered aboveaverage, but in the present market is exceptional.

☐ Buchan House, built to the specification of the architect Samuel Teulon, is a imposing Grade II listed, Victorian former rectory in the Wiltshire hamlet of Fosbury. The house is a fine example of neo-Gothic architecture, with churchlike gable decorated with red brick patterns. The house is set in an acre of grounds that include former Sunday school building, and has four reception rooms and six bedrooms. Humberts' Pewsey office is asking for offers of more than £400,000.

هكذا من الأصل

A new development demonstrates the spread of offices, says Christopher Warman

Despite worsening economic conditions, many companies in the City of London expect to expand and are looking for better quality offices, the chartered surveyor Weatherall Green & Smith concludes from a survey that has taken place over the past year.

An update of the results of a survey carried out in the summer of last year shows that, since then, one in four of the companies had increased its floor space and a third said they needed more space by 1992.

The professional sector displayed the greatest optimism for the future, with 43 per cent looking for more space by 1992 compared with only 23 per cent in the commercial sector.

Analysing the results, Keith Steventon, the head of Weatherall's research, says that businesses seem to be planning their expansion sooner rather than later; 35 per cent are determined to make their move in 1991. This seems more bullish than a year ago, when the proportion was 26 per cent.

The level of dissatisfaction with existing accommodation appears to be growing, with 33 per cent reporting dissatisfaction compared with 28 per cent in the original survey. Quality of space and rents ranked as the two most important causes of dissatisfaction. Location of the office remains important, rated more highly than quality of space by three-quarters of the companies involved.

The City retains its top spot as the preferred location for companies already there (86 per cent), and nearly the same number (82 per cent) believed that it would still be at the top by the year 2000. One shift in opinion is that City businesses expected that by 2000, Docklands would be more suitable for them than the West End, but only 13 per cent saw Docklands as a possible location for themselves.

There is likely to be movement beyond even Docklands and the West End in the next few years as companies seek the best and most economical space, and some will undoubtedly be examining the London Ark, a dramatic boat-like structure with an observation tower now taking shape by the Hammersmith flyover in west London.

The Ark will be one of London's most striking new office buildings, providing 175,000 sq ft of ergonomically designed office space and landscaped areas. The building will be partly occupied by its joint owner, Talgarth Estates, and its UK subsidiaries, including Ake Larson, a project and construction management company.

The building, the first commercial development in London by Ralph Erskine, the 1987 Royal Gold Medal for Architecture winner, includes meeting and exhibition areas and social amenities, arranged round a central atrium. Its unusual shape is a consequence of the site, wedged between an Underground line and the elevated roadway. The new building is off the central London office-rent contour map published by Hillier Parker, which shows the ascendancy of West End rents over those in the City.

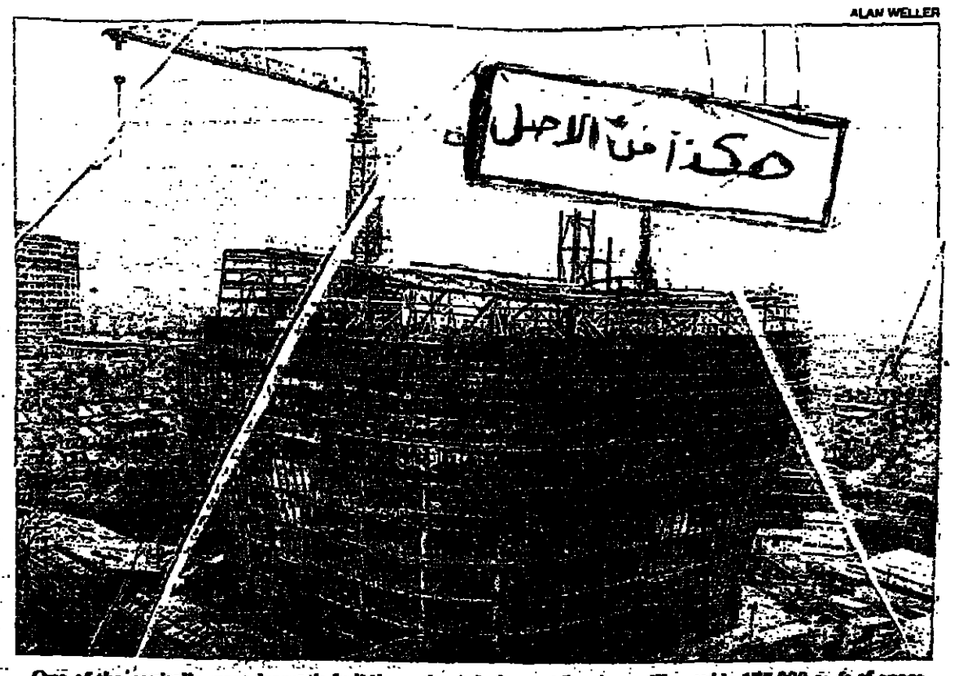
The change is most apparent in the core areas of highest rental value, which have widened in the West End but contracted in the City.

The map, giving a rental "profile" for autumn 1990, shows that the wider choice of new office accommodation available to the prospective tenant in the City has produced an increasingly competitive letting market. The highest City rent contour, at between £60 and £70 a sq ft, has contracted to cover a small area around the Bank of England. Outside this core, there is still a sizeable area within the £40 to £50 contour, where key new office locations continue to influence rental values in the expanded City market.

In the West End, the £60 to £70 a sq ft contour has expanded to include most of Mayfair and St James's. A new £70-plus contour has been introduced for the most sought after addresses within these areas, around Berkeley Square and St James's Square. At the same time, the £40 to £50 contours have expanded southwards because rental growth in the Victoria, Belgravia and Millbank areas.

Hillier Parker last year found that City and West End markets had expanded to meet each other in the midtown area. The continuing expansion demand, Hillier Parker says, has been illustrated by lettings that include the Lucas scheme between Holborn and Blackfriars and Grand Buildings at Trafalgar Square.

ALAN WELLER



One of the capital's most dramatic buildings: the Ark, in west London, will provide 175,000 sq ft of space

Edinburgh claims a rental record

■ A record rent is reported for office space in Edinburgh, where the accountants Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte are to lease 43,000 sq ft of space in Erskine House, a development in the heart of the city's business community by Cussins Property Group and funded by the Church Commissioners for England.
The agent, Chesterton, of London and Glasgow, says it has secured a rent of £26 a sq ft, highlighting the success of Cussins's scheme in this area of redevelopment.

■ On the other side of the Pennines, the Burwood Group is to start work on Old House in a £70 million town centre scheme for Oldham's retail centre next month. The 50,000 sq ft development will have 67 shops. The Spindles, Burwood House is a joint venture between retail property and British Aerospace subsidiary, Arlington Securities, and Rebecca Group's property arm, Azeley Holdings.

■ The architectural practice Seifert Carey Jones of Leeds has won the national competition for the design of the £70 million regeneration of Sheffield's canal basin. Sheffield development corporation, Sheffield city council and British Waterways selected the design, to be developed in conjunction with Norwest Holst urban renewal, for its mix of uses while creating a "vibrant" urban environment.
The canal basin project, considered one of the best development opportunities in the north, will transform the city-centre site into a mix of housing and provide business, retail and leisure space, with a range of housing, with a surrounding landscaped room, housing. A 150-bedroom hotel will be built and a restoration of listed buildings originally to preserve the architectural character of the buildings. The scheme, to start next May, is due for completion in 1994.

■ Lloyds Bank has paid £1.3 million for a site at Grosvenor Developments' Gillingham business park in Kent, on which it is to develop a 40,000 sq ft office building. The site is within the park's 150,000 sq ft office campus, and the bank's decision coincides with Grosvenor Developments' letting at neighbouring Ambley Green to the Halifax Building Society.
The park will accommodate about 50 companies, as well as shopping and leisure facilities. The agents are King & Company and Donaldsons.

■ Continuing overseas investment in London property is demonstrated by Zurich Insurance's purchase of the freehold of 90 Fenchurch Street, London EC3, a recently completed office scheme by P&O Developments.
Zurich Insurance will take nearly half the 85,000 sq ft, and with Bradstock Group Services occupying further space, the agent, Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, is asking between £42.50 and £47.50 a sq ft for the remaining 18,500 sq ft.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

RENTALS

England, their place in the WSC finals again in doubt, hope to play their Test batting line-up against Victoria

Gower prospecting for form

GRAHAM MORRIS

Goalkeeper Gower: the England batsman showed an agility Shilton would admire on his return to practice with the touring party yesterday

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
BRISBANE

YOU would never have known it from the look on his face or the tone of his repartee, but when David Gower resumed active service on the England tour yesterday it came as profound relief to a man pricked by the anxiety of hearing once again that his career was on a slippery path to oblivion.

Gower's philosophy is that life is for living, be it on a skiing holiday, on safari or on a decidedly shaky cricket tour. In the two weeks since he last lifted a bat to any serious purpose, therefore, he will not exactly have confined himself to a hotel room with the coaching manual.

But for all that, it will have been a fraught, frustrating fortnight for one who, despite appearances, neither ignores nor easily endures criticism. He netted, not his favourite pasture, with a striking air of purpose yesterday before declaring himself available for the four-day game against Victoria starting tomorrow.

Gower came on this tour to the disapproval of some who felt him to be past his sell-by date. He made top score in both innings of the first Test but did not win everyone over and, interestingly, he bridled at suggestions that his batting had been blessed by excessive luck. As the tour left the rails, Gower was cited as a bad influence, a player whose sanguine style was at odds with the single-minded front presented by Gooch and Stewart. To top it all, he was then injured.

It was nothing more serious than a damaged right thumb, sustained in the field at Canberra, but although the cracked tip was tolerable, the swelling lower down persisted painfully so that Gower could not grip a bat for a week and could not hit the ball without flinching for several days more.

There are worse times on tour to be inactive, particularly given Gower's jaundiced view of one-day cricket. But the private determination of this publicly ambivalent man is not to be underestimated. He does not wish to be considered a passenger and neither does he believe his talent to be obsolete. He knows he must prove it this week in the gold rush town of Ballarat, where England's strategy for the second Test will be unfurled and examined.

"I must try and make the best possible use of the next week," Gower said after batting for a half-hour without reaction. "It has reached the stage where I can ignore whatever discomfort remains in the thumb, and I know I must. I have to play in Ballarat if I hope to make the Test side."

Gower's sense of isolation during recent days led him to suspect a prank when the laundry service at the team's Brisbane hotel telephoned him on Sunday morning to inquire if he needed his blue, one-day kit washed in a hurry. "As I hadn't played for so long it was all pristine clean," he said ruefully.

There is no doubt that Gower will play against Victoria. The only question is whether he, Robin Smith or Alec Stewart will occupy the No. 3 position in what will be selected as a Test match batting order.

Ideally, Gower would move down to five, or even six, where the new ball will hopefully not follow him, but this would create another dilemna. Smith, perhaps the ideal No. 3, is in wretched form and openly fretting about it; Stewart has not played better since becoming an England player but his free style is not best suited by an early exposure to Reid and Alderman.

Lamb, the only consistent force in England's fragile batting, is one man who could easily be rested but his appetite for cricket is such that he will definitely play. This leaves only the identity of Gooch's opening partner to resolve and Atherton ought to win this place, well ahead of the hapless Larkins and marginally in front of Hugh Morris, who continues to look in wonderful form at practice but simply cannot get a game.

Devon Malcolm, disorientated by his experiences in the one-day side, should be granted the chance to refuel on confidence and Phil Tufnell, the best bowler for England in the World Series competition, but surely play in preparation for a Test debut in Melbourne. But there is no point in punishing an evidently weary Angus Fraser and he will rightly be rested.

Two wounded Enbland bowlers, Lewis and Small, both made tentative progress in the nets yesterday and now have the presence of DeFreitas as the spur for their recovery before a game that England, quite properly, will regard as one of the most significant of the tour.

Australia's defeat is an additional worry for England

From ALAN LEE

AS IF they did not already have enough to contend with on this tour, England yesterday watched in horror as their prescribed path to the World Series finals was undermined by an outbreak of Australian complacency and carelessness.

By presenting an extraordinary one-run win to New Zealand in Hobart, Australia exploded a few myths about their unshakeable professionalism. They also changed the shape of this competition, and England will now be the team eliminated unless they win at least one of their two remaining qualifying games against the chastened Australians.

In attempting to spread the load of responsibility among their players, Australia elaborately reorganised their batting order as they went in pursuit of a modest New Zealand score of 194. Dean Jones, whose century accounted for England on Sunday, dropped to No. 6 with Allan Border even lower at No. 8.

The plan proved a spectacular failure but at 137 for six, when Jones and Border came together, the capacity crowd at Bellerive Oval and a television audience that included the England players in Brisbane, were still expecting them to steer the side home.

Instead, they were two of four consecutive run-outs, as Australia's ambitions for a 100 per cent record in the competition met a shambolic end.

They began the fiftieth over with two runs needed for victory, the last pair together and Bruce Reid facing Chris Pringle. Amazingly, Reid failed to make contact with a single ball and Greg Matthews, his partner, failed to get himself down to the striker's end. In a farcical climax, Reid was run out from the final ball, leaving the New Zealanders scarcely able to credit their reprieve and England contemplating two high-pressure games after Christmas, when they meet Australia in Sydney on New Year's Day and in Melbourne on January 10.

Defeat for Australia had seemed barely conceivable when Martin Crowe, who has sustained New Zealand's batting all but single-handed, was leg-before to Alderman for five at the start of the day. For much of their innings, 160 looked as many as they could expect but some spirited late hitting from Latham and Young produced a target which Australia, for once, did not treat with due respect.

World Series Cup

	P	W	L	Pts	R/Rate
Australia	6	5	1	10	4.89
New Zealand	6	3	5	6	4.05
England	6	2	4	4	4.19

REMAINING MATCHES: Jan 1: Australia v England (Sydney); Jan 10: Australia v England (Melbourne). Finals: Jan 12: Sydney. Jan 15: Melbourne. Jan 17 (if required): Melbourne.

NEW ZEALAND

*M D Crowe lbw b Alderman	5
J G Wright c & b Waugh b O'Donnell	37
A H Jones c Reid b S R Waugh	12
K R Rutherford run out	26
C Z Harris c Healy b Reid	17
R T Latham c Jones b O'Donnell	38
†B A Young not out	41
R G Petrie not out	6
Extras (lb 3, w 2, nb 7)	12
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	194

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-40, 3-71, 4-110, 5-112, 6-169.

C Pringle, D K Morrison and A Watson did not bat.

BOWLING: Alderman 10-1-52-1; Reid 10-1-25-1; O'Donnell 10-0-50-2; Matthews 10-1-33-0; M E Waugh 5-0-1[illegible]-0; S R Waugh 5-1-18-1.

AUSTRALIA

G R Marsh c Latham b Harris	61
D C Boon c Crowe b Pringle	2
S R Waugh c Young b Morrison	9
M E Waugh c Young b Petrie	1
†I A Healy lbw b Watson	24
D M Jones run out	25
S J O'Donnell lbw b Harris	0
*A R Border run out	12
G R J Matthews not out	24
T M Alderman run out	5
B A Reid run out	1
Extras (lb 2, w 5, nb 2)	9
Total (50 overs)	193

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-52, 3-93, 4-111, 5-136, 6-137, 7-154, 8-177, 9-188.

BOWLING: Pringle 10-1-34-1; Petrie 10-1-30-1; Morrison 10-0-56-1; Watson 10-0-29-1; Harris 10-0-42-2.

Umpires: S G Randell and C D Timmins.

May and Hickey defy the odds

OVERSEAS CRICKET
by SIMON WILDE

WHILE Allan Border was leading Australia to an all too predictable win over England in Brisbane on Sunday, his state, Queensland, were unexpectedly losing to South Australia in Adelaide. Adelaide is one of the easier grounds on which to avoid defeat and South Australia, who possess probably the weakest bowling attack among Sheffield Shield sides, were previously without a point in the shield this season.

Queensland, who had declared 163 runs behind on the first innings, were scuppered on the last day by a spell of three wickets in nine balls by Denis Hickey, the fast bowler, who last month took four wickets in five balls against the England XI, and by the return to form of Tim May, the off spinner. May had innings figures of six for 115, his best for three seasons. Hickey's spell included the wicket of Hick for one. Hick had earlier recorded his first half-century for his state.

This was an eventful match. Hohns, the Queensland captain, needed 13 stitches above an eye after being struck by a bouncer from Scuderi, and Monty's hundred for Queensland took longer (435 minutes) than the combined time taken by Hookes, who smashed 178 in 223 minutes, and Nobes to score centuries for South Australia.

In New Zealand, Canterbury have opened up a commanding early lead in the Shell Trophy after winning outright for the second successive week. They beat Northern Districts by eight wickets, Chris Cairns continuing his rehabilitation from injury by taking four first-innings wickets. Auckland lie in second place after beating Central Districts by 44 runs.

Ajay Sharma, the Test all-rounder, has begun the season in India in outstanding form with the bat. For Delhi, in the north zone of the Rani Trophy, he followed a double-century against Services with an unbeaten 163 against Himachal Pradesh. Bombay won the Wills Trophy, India's one-day competition, beating the West Indies XI by nine wickets in the final.

South Africa's Nissan Shield one-day competition was won by Transvaal for the first time in five years when they beat Eastern Province, the holders, by six wickets on Saturday, despite the latter having home advantage at Port Elizabeth before a capacity crowd of 15,000. Roy Pienaar scored 75 not out for Transvaal.

Warwickshire factions agree peace formula

WARWICKSHIRE'S two rival factions have agreed a peace formula, with Bob Evans, the deposed chairman, withdrawing two of the four proposals that led to his removal from office, along with his ally, Peter Bromage (Chris Moore writes).

As part of the agreement, the general committee, under the temporary chairmanship of M. J. K. Smith, the former England and Warwickshire captain, has agreed to set up a working party for "urgent review" of the role and structure of the cricket committee. The findings will be conveyed to the general committee on January 3.

The club said yesterday that in the "best interests of Warwickshire cricket" the general committee had agreed that the proposals relating to the number of members on the committee, and the number of former players eligible to serve on it, would be withdrawn. But the committee will consider this after the annual meeting.

General Highway to give Chugg another profitable dividend

By MANDARIN

SINCE John Chugg, the former point-to-point rider, embarked on a training career eight years ago he has quietly reaped success from a stable of only a dozen horses.

Today, I am napping General Highway to gain another victory for Chugg in the Barkin Developments Handicap Hurdle at Bangor.

Chugg is already comparing General Highway with Master Rajh, the standard bearer in his Milton-Under-Wychwood yard, who will be aimed at this season's Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham festival.

However, General Highway will need to improve considerably from his seasonal outing when only eighth of ten behind Gay Ruffian at Worcester. But Chugg has shown that he is a past master at improving his horses from their debut outing.

Last season, General Highway showed excellent form when beating Mossgara by 25 lengths at Uttoxeter with the third-placed Viridian, who reopposes today on 3lb worse terms for a 32-length beating.

The much heralded Mander's Way appears to be the principal danger. Last season, the former Irish-trained gelding landed a colossal gamble at Folkestone on his British debut for the Henrietta Knight stable.

Miss Knight, however, can be on the mark earlier in the afternoon with Flemish Fudge in the EBF Cross Foxes Intermediate Handicap Chase. The eight-year-old will be attempting to gain his third course and distance victory.

Chugg: reaping success from a small string

Jinxy Jack is another who has also shown his penchant for this course when successful here on his chasing debut last month. Since that victory, though, this former top-class hurdler has failed to complete the course in three outings over fences.

As much as I admire the six-year-old, I feel he is worth opposing in the Barkin Developements Novices' Chase and favour **Young Benz** to make a winning chasing debut. Young Benz, like the Gordon Richards-trained Jinxy Jack, also has smart form over hurdles.

Richards, however, can be on the mark with **Another Dyer** in the Red Coat Novices' Hurdle. Last time out, the Deep Run gelding was run out of it close home when beaten a neck by the fitter Bold Republic at Kelso.

The Chris Popham-trained **Sporting Idol** should appreciate the considerable drop in company in the Yellow Collar Selling Hurdle. He only has to reproduce his running three outings ago when third in a competitive novice hurdle at Wincanton behind Hymn Of Harlech to collect here.

Goldfinger is another who should benefit from a drop in class in the Wynstay Hunt Supporters Handicap Chase. The home-bred gelding has performed with credit for the permit holder John Pilkington in good company, both this season and last.

One of the gelding's best efforts came at Newbury last season when he was third behind Decided, beaten 12 lengths. Today, he may have most to fear from the former useful staying hurdler Pertemps Network.

On the Flat all-weather surface at Lingfield Park, I expect the Toby Balding-trained **Respectable Jones** to defy top weight in the Christina Handicap.

Paul Cole and his stable jockey Richard Quinn, who had their best-ever season on the turf, can complete a double with **Shadideen** (12.15) and **Dearest** (1.45).

Troubled Huffer has timely shot in arm

THE embattled Newmarket trainer Geoff Huffer received a much-needed shot in the arm when Rambo Express won in impressive style at Southwell yesterday.

Huffer could be forced to quit, as his Kuwait-based financial backers have been hit by the Gulf crisis, and he missed seeing the victory as he had a more pressing appointment with his accountants.

Ron Hillis, a late substitute for Lee Newton, suffering from a bout of flu, knew Rambo Express likes to dictate affairs and cleverly stole a march on his rivals in the Coopers Deloitte Claiming Stakes round the home turn. The 9-4 favourite then sprinted clear to beat Jumby Bay by six lengths.

Jack Banks, assistant to Huffer, said: "These are worrying times and we have had to lay lads off. Geoff is determined to continue training, either where we are now, or somewhere new. But this result will cheer him up a little."

No Southwell meeting is complete without Alex Greaves gracing the winner's enclosure, and she made her customary appearance after Friendly Claim, her only ride of the day, took the Wharfdale Nursery.

The top-weight, giving 9lb to his nearest rival, was squeezed at the start but Greaves refused to panic, took a pull and guided the 5-4 favourite out of trouble for a two-length victory over Flying Promise.

Levy Board honours pledge

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Horserace Betting Levy Board is to honour its pledge to the racing industry to provide £24.1 million towards prize-money in 1991 — £2.2 million more than during the current year.

However, as forecast, cuts in capital loans to racecourses for improvements and building projects will have to be made due to an anticipated shortfall of £4.88 million in the levy to be raised from the bookmakers between 1989-90 and 1991-92.

"We are reacting positively to calls from the industry about the need to raise prize-money and to keep it at an adequate level," said Tristram Ricketts, the board's chief executive. "This will only apply to 1991. Our future prize-money contributions will not be decided until after our strategy meeting in February."

No details of the cutbacks to be made in loans to individual tracks are likely to be known until January after discussion has taken place with the racecourses concerned. "We had originally planned to make over £20 million available," Ricketts continued. "this will now have to be cut to under £16.5 million."

The principal beneficiaries were expected to be Newbury and Epsom, who are both about to start multi-million pound building projects. Newbury is due to start work on a £10 million members' stand and weighing room next spring and had been expecting to receive a loan of £5.5 million over three years.

In the New Year Epsom is to start work on a £15 million club stand. It was hoping to receive a £2.5 million loan spread over three years.

Ian Pithers, director of publicity for the Racecourse Association, said: "We already knew that some cuts would have to be made, as the Levy Board has warned that this would happen. But the board will obviously now inform individual racecourses. And until we have had a full report, we will not be able to comment."

● A team of experts has been retained by the Jockey Club to present racing's case to the Treasury and the Home Affairs select committee. Known as London Economics, it will also undertake independent research for the Jockey Club.

Snuggle suspicions after poor display

STEVE Smith Eccles, convinced that the Mark Tompkins-trained Hard As Iron was nobbled when a disappointing heavily-backed favourite at Sandown Park last month, again had his suspicions when stable companion Snuggle performed badly at Folkestone yesterday.

Snuggle, who eased in the betting from 7-4 to 9-4 before the Stanford Novices' Hurdle, raced up with the leaders for over a mile then quickly dropped right to the rear and was pulled up before the final flight.

Smith Eccles, a very experienced senior jockey with over 700 winners to his credit, declared: "I thought she would have won turning handstands. She jumped well and had a good position, then went out like a light after a mile and a quarter. Mark's horses are always fit and fresh and it just makes you think. I could be wrong with this one, it might have been just a one-off, but I'm sure Hard As Iron was "got at" before his Sandown race."

The stewards were told that Snuggle had been working particularly well at home and connections were very disappointed with her performance. The explanations were accepted, but the stewards ordered a dope test. Tompkins was not at the meeting.

The race went to the enterprisingly-ridden Chateauneuf, backed from 6-1 to 7-2, who ran right away from his 19 rivals on the final circuit to score by 15 lengths and give Luke Harvey a new personal best of 26 for the season.

Mark Perrett landed a 19-1 double on Rositary and Backpacker. Only two completed the course without mishap in the Tattersalls Mares Only Novices' Chase Qualifier, Rositary scoring by a distance from the 40-1 outsider Standard Rose.

Xylophone, a faller at the second-last, was eventually remounted by Paul Holley in an attempt to claim third prize of £330, but the judge Nick Locock had left his box and the effort was all wasted.

Xylophone's disappointed trainer Lindsey Bower declared: "I don't know why the judge couldn't have waited a bit longer. I suppose he had to go for his gin and tonic, but it means a lot to a little yard like ours and the owner had come over from the Isle of Wight. It took a long time for Xylophone to complete because she lost her bridle when she fell and I had to run all the way down the track."

Miss Bower asked to see the stewards, who are making a report about the matter to the Jockey Club.

Backpacker, although 9lb out of the handicap in the Heathfield Chase, was up with the pace from the start and came again very gamely at the last to foil the treble-seeking Mister Ed by 1½ lengths.

Toby Balding was the first to admit that his Farmlea Boy was a lucky winner of the Shaddoxhurst Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

Simon Hodgson seemed to have set Farmlea Boy an impossible amount of ground to make up and too little time in which to do it, but his reputation was saved when the clear leader Beech Park tried to demolish the final fence and presented the prize to Farmlea Boy.

Balding in free offer for fund

ROYAL trainer Ian Balding is offering free ownership in one of his horses for the 1991 Flat season to boost a fund for a teenager paralysed in a rugby match.

The all-expenses-paid lease on the four-year-old Tiger Cub will be auctioned during a fund-raising dinner at Bath's Guildhall on February 21 to help Stephen Roberts, who lives near Bath racecourse.

Roberts was paralysed from the neck down playing for Bath Rugby Club's youth team at Nottingham in the spring.

Balding, who trains some of the Queen's horses at Kingsclere, was Bath's full-back for a decade after leaving Cambridge, and maintains strong links with the club.

Aga Khan to cover losses

THE Aga Khan is to compensate Luca Cumani and Michael Stoute over the loss of the horses he is removing from training in Britain in the wake of the Aliysa enquiry.

He will continue to pay training fees to both Newmarket handlers until next June or until his horses have been replaced by those of other owners.

The horses removed from Newmarket are to be divided between Alain de Royer-Dupre in France and John Oxx in Ireland, both of whom already train for him.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 12.45 Anneli Rose. 2.15 Windsor Park. 2.45 Rare Detail. 3.15 Halox, Sam The Man.

Yesterday's results

Southwell

Going: standard

12.0 (7f) 1, **SAINT CALIGULA** (J J O'Dwyer, 3-1); 2, **Midas Blue** (G Carter, 10-1); 3, **Precious Air** (Dale Gibson, 11-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Sharon's Rabbit, 10 Porspective, 14 Swervin Mervin (6th), 20 Farranfore Express, 25 Economy Express (4th), Lucky Asset (5th), 33 Logwood Black, Soughaan's Pride, Tortin. 12 ran. 10l, 2l, 4l, ¾l, sh hd. M Bell at Newmarket. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £21.40. CSF: £36.83.

12.30 (5f) 1, **HANSOM LAD** (Dean McKeown, 6-1); 2, **North Of Watford** (S Webster, 5-2); 3, **Miss Sciatilla** (Kiri Beeching, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Paper Shoes (6th), 8 Crosby (4th), 10 Elegant Rose (5th), 12 Miss Kiva, 16 The Spot, 25 Batted Tune, 50 The Stamp Dealer. 10 ran. ¾l, ½l, 2½l, 1¾l, sh hd. W Haigh at Malton. Tote: £9.60; £2.00, £1.70, £1.20. DF: £22.50. CSF: £35.43. Tricast: £164.03.

1.0 (5f) 1, **FRIENDLY CLAIM** (Alex Greaves, 5-4 fav); 2, **Flying Promise** (N Adams, 11-2); 3, **Baliasecret** (D Maracklin, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Jess Rebec (4th), 10 Dovesgate, Toulal (5th), 11 Ruby Jayne, 14 Able Mac (6th), 25 Prince Of Ireland. 9 ran. NR: Teeny Pop. 2l, sh hd, 1l, 8l, 1½l. T Barron at Thirsk. Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £2.00, £4.30. DF: £8.10. CSF: £9.79. Tricast: £37.15.

1.30 (1m 6f) 1, **HIDDEN** (B Crossley, 3-1 fav); 2, **Mississippi Beat** (Jaid Houston, 10-1); 3, **Kolinsky** (G Husband, 14-1); 4, **Lafkadio** (G Bardwell, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Link Market (pu), 7 Allort, Just Pulham, 10 Sulcis, Suvez Moi (6th), 12 Grace Card, 14 Sike Domino, 20 Temoorwie (5th), 25 Quessard, Buzzards Crest, Cablelink, String Player, Maskoona. 17 ran. 1½l, 1½l, 1½l, 7l, 5l. H Thomson Jones at Newmarket. Tote: £5.10; £1.70, £1.30, £3.70, £5.60. DF: £83.30. CSF: £37.22. Tricast: £382.39.

2.0 (6f) 1, **RAMBO EXPRESS** (Ron Hillis, 9-4 fav); 2, **Jumby Bay** (R P Elliott, 5-1); 3, **Walley Lad** (T Quinn, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Gondo (5th), Darting Moth (6th), 8 Broad Story, Petite Elite, 12 Marian Evans, 16 Mac Kelty, Regina Royale, 33 Imperial Glory, Silly's Brother (4th), Fairfield Lad, Honey Mill, First Tradition. 15 ran. NR: Yukosan. 6l, hd, ½l, 1½l, nk. G Huffer at Newmarket. Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £13.90. CSF: £16.53.

2.30 (7f) 1, **CARROLLS MARC** (C Hodgson, Evens fav); 2, **Stoneleigh Abbey** (E Husband, 7-1); 3, **Mick's Choice** (B Crossley, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Vanda's Girl, 15-2 Cunning Plan (5th), 9 Angel Train (4th), 12 Sequel Two (6th), 16 Harry's Joy, 20 Telmesboutit, Jolly Fisherman, 33 Lady Scotfield. 11 ran. 2½l, ¾l, sh hd, hd, hd. M Tompkins at Newmarket. Tote: £2.50; £1.70, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £16.50. CSF: £10.45.

3.0 (1m) 1, **ALNASRIC PETE** (Elaine Bronson, 6-4 fav); 2, **Sunset Reins Free** (Mr R Wilkinson, 12-1); 3, **Precious Ballerina** (Sarah Easterby, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Super Morning (4th), 7-2 Pirronique (5th), 6 Spanish Whisper, 8 Gothic Ford (6th), 12 Supreme Court, 16 Curnacall, 20 Blue Bell Ribbons, 25 Curvet, 33 O'Beron's Daughter, Whittingham Vale, Astrid Gilberto, Thoresby. 15 ran. ½l, 1l, nk, ¾l, 3l. D Wilson at Epsom. Tote: £3.10; £1.60, £2.80, £4.10. DF: £106.90. CSF: £27.06. Tricast: £221.71.

Placepot: £25.80.

Folkestone

Going: good to firm (chase course): good to soft (hurdles)

12.45 (2m 100yd hdle) 1, **CHATEAUNEUF** (L Harvey, 7-2); 2, **Kino** (J Osborne, 9-2); 3, **Mistress Lil** (S Burrough, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Snuggle (pu), 9 Fenouille (4th), 20 Equinor (5th), Mieka, 25 Singing Forever (6th), 33 Kalalee, Le Pelley's Isle, The Swinge, Tamise (f), Yarra Glen (ur), 50 Eastern Sunset (pu), Gentle Satin (pu), Modern Jazz, Rupples (pu), Sheerwind (pu), Harvest Splendour, Shoot To Kill. 20 ran. 15l, 4l, 1l, nk, dist. R Akehurst at Whitcombe. Tote: £3.50; £2.10, £2.20, £2.30. DF: £11.10. CSF: £19.77.

1.15 (2m 100yd hdle) 1, **TORWADA** (D Murphy, 11-4 fav); 2, **Ribokeyes Boy** (D Gallagher, 7-1); 3, **Cut A Caper** (D O'Sullivan, 5-1); 4, **Harken Premier** (R Dunwoody, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Topsoil (5th), 8 Love To Dance, 9 Carfax, 12 Young Muzzy, Duncan Idaho, 14 Chasmarella, 16 Colne Valley Kid, Corbelly Boso, 20 Manhattan Boy, Final Flutter, 25 Call A Truce (pu), Ballantrae, Whoever, Forzold (6th), Prince Mac (pu), 33 Silver Sleek (pu). 20 ran. NR: Crisp Note, Sphinx. 8l, 3½l, nk, ¾l, ½l. B Curley at Newmarket. Tote: £4.40; £2.60, £5.70, £1.50, £3.50. DF: £72.30. CSF: £29.09. Tricast: £104.28. Bought in 3,000gns.

1.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, **ROSITARY** (M Perrett, 15-8 jt-fav); 2, **Standard Rose** (D Medgwick, 40-1). Only two finished. ALSO RAN: 15-8 jt-fav Mulloch Brae (f), 2 Out Of Range (f), 33 True Clown (f), Xylophone (f). 6 ran. Dist. S Mellor at Wanborough. Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £8.10. DF: £30.10.

2.15 (3m 2f ch) 1, **BACKPACKER** (M Perrett, 6-1); 2, **Mister Ed** (R Goldstein, 9-4 fav); 3, **Dandy Minstrel** (M Bowlby, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Master Comedy (f), 5 Star Of Screen (f), 33 Sir Wager (4th), 40 Sea Challenger (pu), 50 Scots Lad (pu). 8 ran. 1½l, 2l, dist. G Enright at Lewes. Tote: £7.30; £1.90, £1.20, £1.30. DF: £11.00. CSF: £19.39. Tricast: £55.48.

2.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, **FARMLEA BOY** (S Hodgson, 7-4 fav); 2, **Beech Park** (R Bellamy, 9-4); 3, **Chelsea Man** (I Lawrence, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 6 Snitterfield (5th), 15-2 Never A Penny (4th), 14 Final Alma (ref). 6 ran. 3l, 12l, 4l, hd. G Balding at Fyfield. Tote: £2.20; £1.90, £1.30. DF: £4.50. CSF: £6.07.

3.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1, **CELTIC PRINCE** (C Llewellyn, 6-1); 2, **Underbidder** (P Verling, 12-1); 3, **Salamander Joe** (R Dunwoody, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Yeoman Farmer (pu), 5 Mister Half-Chance, 14 Silverino (4th), 16 Billy Strayhorn, 20 Comic Line (pu), Mediane (6th), Team Leader, 25 Sun-King Johnny, 33 Beau Charm (5th), Marsh Doctor, Brazen Baroness (pu), 50 Garry Pierre, Owen Somer (pu), Baron Safeguard (pu), Welcome Tidings (pu). 18 ran. Hd, 3l, hd, 8l, 2½l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote: £9.30; £1.40, £5.80, £2.50. DF: £139.30. CSF: £82.82.

Placepot: £41.70.

● Conor O'Dwyer is to replace Richard Dunwoody on top chaser Carvill's Hill. O'Dwyer is likely to partner the Jim Dreaper gelding for the first time in the Black and White Whiskey Chase at Leopardstown on December 27.

BANGOR

Selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Seventh Lock.
1.00 Sporting Idol.
1.30 Goldfinger.
2.00 Flemish Fudge.
2.30 GENERAL HIGHWAY (nap).
3.00 Young Benz.
3.30 Another Dyer.

By Michael Seely
2.30 Mander's Way. 3.00 Another Dyer.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 TARKOVSKY.

Going: soft SIS

12.30 MAESPEN NOVICES HURDLE (£1,360: 2m 4f) (18 runners)

1	152-15	CACHE FLEUR 20 (F,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 4-11-6	J Lower	94
2	6004-U1	FLAIRY LAD 21 (G) (J Smith) R Lee 6-11-6	W McFarland	76
3	00-00	BEN THE BOMBER 14 (D Davies) J Edwards 5-11-0	Judy Davies (7)	—
4	6	BEYOND SUSPICION 19 (W Hochenhull) Mrs S Oliver 5-11-0	R Hyett	—
5	642-	CRAWN HAWK 375 (T Clegg) T Tate 5-11-0	G Bradley	—
6	20-1F2	GYMCRAK DAWN 34 (G) (Gymcrak Racing III) M H Easterby 5-11-0	R Marley	80
7	30/2-0	POL SLAK 18 (R Edwards) C Brooks 7-11-0	E de Haan	84
8	6	POTATO MAN 28 (C Foster) B McLean 4-11-0	B Storey	—
9	2	RIVER BOUNTY 22 (J Upson) J Upson 4-11-0	R Supple	● 99
10		SANDBROOK (D Shorey) Mrs H Parrott 6-11-0	S McNeill	—
11	4	SEVENTH LOCK 28 (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 4-11-0	J Osborne	93
12	0R-0	SOLAR GREEN 20 (M Healey) L Codd 5-11-0	P Leach	—
13	6	SPY HILL 32 (D Bramall) B McLean 4-11-0	P Niven	—
14	0	SUNNY MOUNT 25 (W Stephenson) W A Stephenson 4-11-0	C Grant	—
15	6-04	TRUBLION 13 (T Hemmings) S Mellor 5-11-0	M Perrett	53
16	00-0	WILLOW HOLDING 19 (P McCourt) T Donnelly 5-11-0	M Lynch	—
17	1-	GLADTOGETIT 240 (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 4-10-9	B Powell	—
18	06-	KILTY HILL 258 (G Barlow) G Barlow 4-10-9	S J O'Neill	—

BETTING: 5-2 Cache Fleur, 7-2 Gymcrak Dawn, 9-2 River Bounty, 6-1 Trublion, 8-1 Seventh Lock, 10-1 Pol Slak, 12-1 Flairy Lad, 14-1 others.

1989: HEY COTTAGE 4-11-5 Mrs D McCain (2-1 jt-fav) D McCain 18 ran

FORM FOCUS CACHE FLEUR staying-on 7½l 5th of 25 to Cowden Cottage at Warwick (2m 5f, good); previously beat Draw Poker 3l at Taunton (2m 3f, good to firm).
FLAIRY LAD led close home to defeat Myfor ½l at Hereford (2m 3f, good). BEYOND SUSPICION never nearer 37½l 8th to George Buckingham here (2m, soft) with WILLOW HOLDING (same terms) ½l 9th.
GYMCRAK DAWN 12l 2nd to Danny Connors at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft); earlier won 18-runner bumper here (1m 4f, good). RIVER BOUNTY rallied well to finish neck 2nd to Concert Paper at Stratford (2m 6f, good). SEVENTH LOCK jumped slowly when 9½l 4th to Strong Beau at Haydock (2m, soft). GLADTOGETIT won 15-runner bumper at Sligo (2m, yield) by 3l from Travel Bound.
Selection: GYMCRAK DAWN

1.0 YELLOW COLLAR SELLING HURDLE (£1,842: 2m) (15 runners)

1	552525	SOLITARY REAPER 14 (D,F) (Unique Racing Plc) C Beaver 5-11-12	F Murtagh (7)	93
2		DAN THE MAN 407F (B) (B Hill) C Smith 4-11-5	Mr M Ranger (7)	—
3	3/50506-	KING OF ARAGON 217 (V) (Mrs S Hall) R Brotherton 5-11-5	S Woods	77
4	3P0/0U	REEF LARK 21 (Three Counties Bloodstock) F Jordan 5-11-5	J Lodder (3)	—
5	232-360	SPORTING IDOL 20 (Mrs D Holdsworth) C Popham 5-11-5	Mr D Duggan (7)	● 99
6		SUPREME BLUES 194F (D Powell) J Thomas 4-11-5	A David (7)	—
7	0-0	HANNAH MELLIE NICK 22 (M Nicklees) L Codd 5-11-0	P Leach	—
8	0050-04	MADAM TAYLOR 27 (G Whittaker) R Peacock 5-11-0	R Dunwoody	85
9	4F-P0F	SISTER CHABRIAS 23 (P Dolan) K Burke 5-11-0	T Jarvis	90
10		A1 PAPER CLIPPER (A1 Paper Plc) Miss S Wilton 3-10-7	—	—
11	5405	DAWN DECISION 23 (T Robertson) J Czerpak 3-10-7	G Rowe (7)	83
12	24	PAGO 19 (B) (J Mulligan) J J O'Neill 3-10-7	L Wyer	75
13	P	BRIGARA 19 (Miss C Caroe) Miss C Caroe 3-10-2	A Stanford (7)	—
14	0	MISS MEADOWBROOK 8 (T Morris) R Woodhouse 3-10-2	M Dwyer	—
15	4	WEEKENDER 14 (Miss K George) Miss K George 3-10-2	H Davies	75

BETTING: 2-1 Madam Taylor, 7-2 Sporting Idol, 6-1 Solitary Reaper, 8-1 Dawn Decision, 10-1 A1 Paper Clipper, 12-1 Pago, 14-1 Reef Lark, 16-1 others.

1989: MISS CHALK 5-10-2 P Scudamore (5-2 fav) M Pipe 13 ran

FORM FOCUS SOLITARY REAPER creditable 12l 2nd to Treyamon on penultimate start in Hexham selling handicap (2m, good). SPORTING IDOL failed to recover from mistake when 10th of 12 to Secret Four at Warwick; previously fair 7l 6th to Lihbab in Taunton novice handicap (2m 110yd, good to firm).
MADAM TAYLOR one paced 11½l 4th to Reg Time Belle in Ludlow novice handicap (2m, good to firm). PAGO 16½l 4th to Legal Streak in Bangor seller (2m, soft) with BRIGARA tailed off when pulled up before 3 out. WEEKENDER soon beaten 15l 4th to Illogical at Huntingdon (2m 100yd, good to firm).
Selection: SOLITARY REAPER (nap)

1.30 WYNNSTAY HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£3,290: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

1	13435-F	PERTEMPS NETWORK 39 (V,D,F,G,S) (Pertemps Ltd) R Lee 8-11-10	W McFarland	85
2	24541-0	SHADY ROAD 21 (D,G,S) (Kinch Bulk Haulage) G Richards 8-11-8	N Doughty	89
3	2/41P-25	THE HUMBLE TILLER 22 (B,BF,G,S) N Henderson 7-11-7	R Dunwoody	94
4	F/2861-1	WARNER'S END 25 (B,D,G,S) (Lady Lyell) J Webber 9-11-7	M Lynch	88
5	P/P?F-	BIRD OF SPIRIT 284 (G,S) (Mrs M Scudamore) M Scudamore 10-11-4	D Tegg	90
6	01F2P-4	MENINGI 19 (D,F,G,S) (H Perry) Mrs H Parrott 9-11-4	S McNeill	93
7	333-044	GOLDFINGER 18 (J Pilkington) J Pilkington 7-11-1	T Morgan	94
8	6/P203-4	YOUNG WARRIOR 41 (BF,S) (Sir C Morrison) Miss H Knight 8-11-0	J Osborne	85
9	2/431-24	DUBIOUS JAKE 21 (BF,F,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 7-10-13	M Dwyer	91
10	3U5552-	HARD TO HOLD 391 (F,G) (Mrs V Hambly) C Beaver 7-10-10	Mr A Hambly	—
11	1F/28/F	SHAH'S CHOICE 22 (F,S) (A Skidmore) C Popham 7-10-8	B Powell	—
12	052PF-2	SCALE MODEL 20 (S) (J Roper) J Roper 8-10-0	R Hyett	● 99
13	55/5-002	THE LAST TUNE 7 (S) (J Casey) J Bukovets 8-10-0	J Shortt	93

Long handicap: Scale Model 9-11, The Last Tune 9-10.

BETTING: 3-1 The Humble Tiller, 4-1 Scale Model, Pertemps Network, 5-1 Warner's End, 6-1 Young Warrior, 8-1 Dubious Jake, 10-1 Shady Road, 12-1 Meningi, 14-1 others.

1989: CROCK-NA-NEE 8-11-4 J Osborne (9-4 fav) O Sherwood 16 ran

FORM FOCUS PERTEMPS NETWORK 20l 2nd of 14 to Rynode on latest start over fences in Wolverhampton novice (2m 4f, good to firm) last term. SHADY ROAD led flat to beat Romeny King 2l on final start last term in Ludlow novice (2m 4f, good to soft).
THE HUMBLE TILLER creditable 8l 2nd to Samsun on reappearance in Worcester handicap (3m, good). WARNER'S END driven out to beat Isaac Newton 3l in Towcester handicap (2m 5f 110yd, good). MENINGI staying-on 1l 4th to Famous Lad in handicap here (2m, soft). GOLDFINGER fair 9½l 4th to Amari King on penultimate start in Worcester handicap (2m, good). HARD TO HOLD 1½l 2nd to Elite Boy on final start last term in Ludlow handicap (2m 4f, firm) with SCALE MODEL (3lb better off) 30l 3rd. THE LAST TUNE 5l 2nd to Fit For Firing at Worcester (2m 4f, soft).
Selection: THE LAST TUNE

2.0 EBF CROSS FOXES INTERMEDIATE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,765: 3m) (6 runners)

1	111P-42	RADICAL LADY 20 (D,BF,G,S) (N Mason Farms Ltd) G Moore 6-11-12	M Dwyer	● 99
2	F03P-11	FLEMISH FUDGE 33 (B,CD,G,S) (Mrs D Gardner) Miss H Knight 8-11-10	B Dowling	91
3	65/6211-	YOUNG NICHOLAS 338 (D,F,G,S) (R Sale) J Roberts 9-11-7	S Turner	96
4	FFFP-54	HI' UPHAM 30 (G Clarke) D Gandolfo 8-10-1	B Powell	—
5	41/220-	HE IS GREADY 328 (S) (P O'Donnell) R O'Leary 9-10-0	L Wyer	96
6	E/PPCUP	MEESON DANCER 14 (E Pennington) P Anderson 5-10-0	T Wall	—

Long handicap: He Is Gready 9-10, Meeson Dancer 9-10.

BETTING: 7-4 Flemish Fudge, 5-2 Radical Lady, 4-1 Young Nicholas, 8-1 He Is Gready, 12-1 Hi' Upham, 50-1 Meeson Dancer.

1989: CLASSEY BOY 6-10-3 H Davies (66-1) G Ham 5 ran

FORM FOCUS RADICAL LADY no extra close home when 1l 2nd to The Langholm Dyer in Carlisle handicap (3m, good). FLEMISH FUDGE just held on to beat Green Archer sh hd in similar race over course and distance (soft).
YOUNG NICHOLAS pushed out to defeat Lover Bill 10l in novice handicap at Windsor (3m, good to firm). HI' UPHAM never dangerous 16l 4th to Concert Paper in novice hurdle here (3m, soft), failed to complete on five starts over fences last term. HE IS GREADY 19l 3rd to Rifle Range on penultimate start last term in Haydock novice (3m, soft).
Selection: RADICAL LADY

2.30 BARKIN DEVELOPMENTS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,637: 3m) (20 runners)

1	26221/3	GREAT SALING 29 (C,G,S) (B Woodward) F Jordan 5-11-10	J Lodder (3)	—
2	14/	ROLLING BALL 678 (S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 7-11-9	J Lower	—
3	0P212/6-	MORE FOOL YOU 322 (S) (D Goodenough) P Hobbs 8-11-7	S Earle	—
4	3214/2-4	TORKABAR 15 (S) (N Coulson-Stevens) G Ham 5-11-6	M A Fitzgerald (7)	83
5	14-6221	VIRIDIAN 18 (F,G) (P Moriarty) Mrs A King 5-11-6	R Dunwoody	89
6	12P-4	MANDER'S WAY 43 (BF,S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 5-11-5	J Osborne	93
7	64123-0	GENERAL HIGHWAY 48 (S) (Mrs P Gann) J Chugg 7-11-3	M Lynch	91
8	2313-12	SHASTON 16 (B,F,S) (Kavanagh Roofing Ltd) W G M Turner 5-11-1	H Davies	88
9	4-F4111	CONCERT PAPER 22 (CD,G,S) (S Hammond) Miss S Wilton 6-10-13	—	94
10	10-PC05	GURTEEN BOY 7 (S) (J Lane) J J O'Neill 9-10-12	L Wyer	98
11	0510-P0	FALSE ECONOMY 18 (S) (M Shone) J Edwards 5-10-9	N Williamson	83
12	1P-F2F5	WREKIN HILL 12 (G) (P Price) W A Stephenson 8-10-8	C Grant	—
13	P/064-50	STORMWATCH 13 (C,G,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 7-10-8	B Powell	95
14	445-F4F	GENERAL CHRYSON 12 (S) (D Mitchell) P Hobbs 10-10-8	Mr B Clifford (7)	91
15	1/P000P-	BONNE ARME 243 (D,S) (Mrs J Breese) Mrs J Breese 9-10-7	Mr R Davis (7)	—
16	2P3241-	MIRAGE DANCER 223 (F) (G White) Miss C Caroe 7-10-3	A Stanford (7)	85
17	5505-22	TARKOVSKY 15 (S) (J Watkins) R Lee 5-10-3	W McFarland	● 99
18	/6552-P	TELEMETER GEM 32 (D,S) (P Collings) R Fisher 9-10-0	R Supple	87
19	0/P513-R	THE EGG BARON 49 (S) (C Heron) C Bell 5-10-0	—	85
20	C5FF-P3	BEN HEAD 19 (S) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 8-10-0	C Llewellyn	88

Long handicap: Telemeter Gem 9-13, The Egg Baron 9-4, Ben Head 9-4.

BETTING: 4-1 Tarkovsky, 5-1 Rolling Ball, 6-1 Mander's Way, Viridian, 8-1 Torkabar, Concert Paper, 10-1 Shaston, Gurteen Boy, 12-1 General Highway, 14-1 False Economy, Stormwatch, General Chryson, 14-1 others.

1989: BROMPTON ROAD 6-9-9 C Dennis (5-2 fav) D Moffatt 8 ran

FORM FOCUS ROLLING BALL 5l 4th to Celtic Barle in a listed novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 4f, good). VIRIDIAN made all to beat A Friend of Mine a sh hd at Nottingham (2m 4f, good) with STORMWATCH (7lb better off) never nearer 23l 7th.
MANDER'S WAY staying on 3½l 4th to Camden Belle at Devon (2m 1f, good). SHASTON 3l 2nd to Cnoc An Oir at Chepstow (3m, good) with TORKABAR (3lb better off) 14½l 4th and FALSE ECONOMY 8th. CONCERT PAPER beat River Bounty a nk at Stratford (2m 6f, good) novice hurdle; previously beat Petty Bridge 3l over course and distance (soft). GURTEEN BOY one paced 18½l 5th of 15 to Elgar Prince at Haydock (2m, good to soft). MIRAGE DANCER beat Highfield Prince 5l in a Sedgefield (2m, firm) novice in May. TARKOVSKY 1½l 2nd to Charlie Dickens at Leicester (2m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: CONCERT PAPER

3.0 BARKIN DEVELOPMENTS NOVICES' CHASE (£2,979: 2m) (13 runners)

1	6F-1FFF	JINXY JACK 25 (CD,BF,G,S) (Mrs B McKinney) G Richards 6-11-6	N Doughty	● 99
2	PF	BEECHMOUNT LAD 21 (V Harrison) C Tristine 6-11-0	S Earle	—
3	34/5483	BOLD ARCHER 28 (B) (Miss K George) Miss K George 7-11-0	H Davies	75
4	0P/0/P0	BREEZE AWAY BEN 14 (Miss K George) Miss K George 8-11-0	V Smith	—
5	6002P-0	CAPTAIN MAY 32 (Miss N Taylor) R Peacock 6-11-0	S Turner	—
6	35/P335	EASY KIN 19 (V,F) (S Mercer) R Peacock 8-11-0	B Powell	73
7	3454/F-P	JUST A HALF 30 (S) (F Markland) D McCain 8-11-0	G McCourt	69
8	/12/530-	SILLIAN 226 (G) (G Williams) Mrs A Hewitt 8-11-0	S J O'Neill	—
9	0503/4	TUDOR JUSTICE 15 (Glyn Jones) R Lee 8-11-0	W McFarland	—
10	232001-	XHAI 175F (B,F) (Darfem Racing) R Simpson 8-11-0	W Morris	—
11	334650	YAMANOUCHI 28 (Mrs G Turnbull) D Moffatt 6-11-0	D J Moffatt (7)	73
12	1141/45	YOUNG BENZ 25 (S) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 6-11-0	L Wyer	—
13	P5-PPP3	SELF AID 22 (F) (R Sale) J Roberts 7-10-9	Gee Armytage	—

BETTING: 5-4 Jinxy Jack, 7-4 Young Benz, 10-1 Yamanouchi, 12-1 Xhai, 20-1 Bold Archer, 33-1 others.

1989: REDGRAVE DEVIL 7-11-1 P Scudamore (11-4 fav) M Pipe 15 ran

FORM FOCUS JINXY JACK disputing lead when fell 3 out presenting the race to Happy Breed at Market Rasen (2m 1f, good) latest; easily beat Trivet 8l here (2m, good) last month with EASY KIN (6lb better off) 1½l 3rd, YAMANOUCHI (6lb better off) 3l 5th and BEECHMOUNT LAD pulled up.
BOLD ARCHER 9l 3rd to Miss Fern at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to firm). EASY KIN 14l 3rd to Mountain Man in a novice handicap chase here (2m, soft) with JUST A HALF pulled up before 2 out on penultimate start. SILLIAN staying-on 6l 3rd to Kaden in a handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good) in April. YOUNG BENZ mistake 2 out when a 46l 5th to Beech Road in Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good) latest; better effort when a 10½l 4th to Alcano over same course and distance (good) in a handicap hurdle on penultimate start. SELF AID 12½l 3rd to Seaton Girl in a novice handicap at Newton Abbot (2m 150yd).
Selection: JINXY JACK

3.30 RED COAT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,302: 2m) (18 runners)

1	3306-2	ANOTHER DYER 16 (BF) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill) G Richards 6-11-10	N Doughty	91
2	20-224	MYFOR 5 (BF) (A Lomas) M Pipe 4-11-0	J Lower	90
3	5-F0401	ROPE 13 (D,F) (N Bler) Mrs F Walwyn 4-10-13	P Verling (3)	91
4	P-P1300	LIGHT DANCER 27 (D,F) (R Owen) L Codd 4-10-12	S Turner	98
5	3F-P	FREE MINX 28 (D Bramall) B McLean 4-10-9	P Niven	● 99
6	F050-66	NORWICH CASTLE 21 (I Jones) F Jordan 6-10-7	J Lodder (3)	91
7	50335-	HOWGILL 226 (Mrs C Lockhart) R Hollinshead 4-10-7	Mr S Wynn (7)	94
8	402F-	SEQUESTRATOR 426 (A Cooke) P Evans 7-10-6	T Wall	93
9	33300-	MERRY MARIGOLD 233 (Mrs I Penfold) J Roberts 4-10-5	S Burrough (7)	94
10	P0-0315	GIPSY RAMBLER 16 (CD,S) (Mrs M Underwood) N Chamberlain 5-10-5	G Harker	94
11	60/30-P0	PURBECK DOVE 6 (H Perry) Mrs H Parrott 5-10-4	S McNeill	93
12	3PF525-	FRAMPTON HOUSE 236 (A Wright) M Charles 8-10-4	D Bridgwater (7)	95
13	044P-00	GOLDEN SOUND 26 (Mrs B Taaffe) P Davis 6-10-2	J Osborne	57
14	0SCP	SOUTHEND UNITED 4 (J Upson) J Upson 4-10-1	R Supple	—
15	0FP-P	IORWERTH 19 (Mrs W Higgs) E Owen jun 4-10-0	D Skyrme (3)	—
16	60-P0	HAPPY DEAL 14 (F Phillips) A Jones 4-10-0	Diana Jones	—
17	0R20P/3	RAPIER SWAN 23 (Mrs W Davis) P Davis 6-10-0	R Dunwoody	—
18	/000F-0	MERRYMOLES 19 (P Caroe) Miss C Caroe 7-10-0	A Stanford (7)	—

Long handicap: Iorwerth 9-9, Happy Deal 9-9, Rapier Swan 9-3, Merrymoles 8-10.

BETTING: 3-1 Myfor, 4-1 Another Dyer, 9-2 Howgill, 6-1 Sequestrator, 8-1 Light Dancer, 10-1 Merry Marigold, Gipsy Rambler, Frampton House, 12-1 others.

1989: ABBOTTS VIEW 5-10-6 P Scudamore (9-2 fav) C Brooks 15 ran

FORM FOCUS ANOTHER DYER neck 2nd to Bold Republic at Kelso (2m, good to soft) with GIPSY RAMBLER (9lb better off) 25l 5th. MYFOR 3½l 4th to De Profundis at Hereford (2m 3f, good); previously ½l 2nd to Flairy Lad over same course and distance (good) with NORWICH CASTLE (5lb better off) 10½l 6th.
ROPE strong late run to beat St Elmo's Fire ½l at Taunton (2m 110yd, good to firm). SEQUESTRATOR off course since falling at Taunton (2m 110yd, hard) last October; strong claims on previous 1½l 2nd to Mill de Lease at Uttoxeter (2m, firm). GIPSY RAMBLER beat Revaro 5l over course and distance (soft) with NORWICH CASTLE (6lb better off) 18½l 6th.
Selection: ANOTHER DYER

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
Miss H Knight	4	5	80.0
M H Easterby	3	7	42.9
M Pipe	19	46	41.3
G Ham	7	19	36.8
D Gandolfo	10	40	25.0
Mrs S Oliver	8	33	24.2

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
C Grant	12	28	42.9
N Doughty	11	32	34.4
P Niven	4	14	28.6
G Bradley	7	29	24.1
J Lower	3	13	23.1
J Osborne	4	19	21.1

● Carrick Hill Lad has been heavily backed with the sponsors again for *Saturday's Coral Welsh Grand National* at Chepstow. The Gordon Richards-trained seven-year-old was cut yesterday from 4-1 to 11-4. Other prices: 4-1 Boraceva, 6-1 Bonanza Boy, Cool Ground, 10-1 bar.

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

12.15 Shadideen.
12.45 Respectable Jones.
1.15 Light Green.
1.45 Dearest.
2.15 Torghia.
2.45 Hamlet Croft.
3.15 Helawe.

Michael Seely's selection: 12.15 SHADIDEEN (nap).

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: standard **Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best** SIS

12.15 SELMA MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 2-Y-O: £2,375: 1m) (11 runners)

1	(9)	00	GABBY HAYES 164 (P Mitchell) P Mitchell 9-0	D Cripps (7)	—
2	(5)	00	IRENE LOCK 4 (D Tucker) D C Tucker 9-0	—	—
3	(3)	003	JUST A LOOK 69 (B) (B Lanigan) D Murray Smith 9-0	G Carter	● 99
4	(7)	0	KANOOZ 50 (F Salman) M Prescott 9-0	G Duffield	—
5	(2)	00	LONG LEAVE 13 (Exors Mrs J de Rothschild) R Johnson Houghton 9-0	Paul Eddery	—
6	(4)	64644	RACE TO TIME 4 (Witley Engineering) R Akehurst 9-0	R Hills	91
7	(1)		SHADIDEEN (F Salman) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	—
8	(8)	0060	TOSHIBA COMET TOO 44 (G Williams) W Pearce 9-0	G Husband (5)	83
9	(6)	000	TWILIGHT FLAME 37 (Mrs J Ringland) M Channon 9-0	C Rutter	—
10	(10)	030	HIGHTOWN EXECUTIVE 20 (Hightown Finance) J Moore 8-9	Mark Denaro (7)	82
11	(11)	6	QUEEN OF DREAMS 34 (J Miller) J Scargill 8-9	J Williams	84

BETTING: 2-1 Shadideen, 7-2 Race To Time, 5-1 Just A Look, 6-1 Kanooz, 10-1 Toshiba Comet Too, 12-1 Queen Of Dreams, 14-1 others.

1989: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

12.45 CHRISTINA HANDICAP (£2,427: 6f) (8 runners)

1	(1)	645136	RESPECTABLE JONES 44 (D,F,G,S) (E Weinstein) G Balding 4-9-12	J Williams	94
2	(2)	153060	REDNET 5 (F) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 3-9-3	D Nicholls	89
3	(8)	001645	SAYSANA 13 (F) (F Hill) A Moore 3-8-9	S Dawson	95
4	(3)	440012	SCOTS LAW 27 (C,F) (B Bolton) R O'Sullivan 3-8-9	D Biggs (5)	● 99
5	(6)	0046	ANNELI ROSE 13 (B,BF) (N Abbott) P Cole 3-8-5	T Quinn	94
6	(5)	50-0005	SERENIKI 218 (K Russell) P Mitchell 3-7-10	C Rutter	80
7	(4)	420000	INSWINGER 57 (W Wightman) W Wightman 4-7-8	G Bardwell	87
8	(7)	462000	TENDER TRAIL 64 (Z Ahmad) C Benstead 3-7-7	N Adams	87

BETTING: 3-1 Scots Law, 7-2 Respectable Jones, 4-1 Saysana, 6-1 Anneli Rose, 8-1 Tender Trail, 10-1 Rednet, 12-1 Sereniki, 14-1 Inswinger.

1.15 TORNHA CLAIMING STAKES (£2,301: 5f) (8 runners)

1	(3)	060215	HALVOYA 8 (CD,F,G) (Mrs P Badger) J Spearing 5-8-6	Ron Hillis (3)	89
2	(7)	000000	COUNT ME OUT 20 (B,C,F) (Mrs K Sneath) R Hoad 5-8-3	G Carter	87
3	(8)	00368	DORSEY 51 (B) (P Felden) P Felden 3-8-3	G Duffield	88
4	(1)	005080	EVER SO ARTISTIC 58 (V) (M Orpen-Palmer) P Howling 3-8-1	C Rutter	73
5	(2)	103003	EVER RECKLESS 8 (B,D,BF,F) (D Thom) D Thom 4-8-0	Emma O'Gorman (5)	98
6	(4)	50	LIGHT GREEN 27 (Miss D Smyth) R Smyth 3-7-13	A Martinez (7)	80
7	(6)	220000	SINGH HOLME 13 (A Chandler) S Harris 3-7-13	N Adams	● 99
8	(5)	06-5000	PRINCESS JESSICA 232 (Burt & Travios Ltd) P Butler 3-7-8	—	80

BETTING: 5-2 Halvoya, 3-1 Ever Reckless, 4-1 Count Me Out, 6-1 Light Green, 8-1 Singh Holme, 10-1 Dorsey, 16-1 others.

1.45 SELIA MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,299: 1m 4f) (11 runners)

1	(1)	6-030	EREVNON 40 (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) C Brittain 9-0	B Doyle (7)	91
2	(2)		LORETTO (I MacDonald) R Johnson Houghton 9-0	Paul Eddery	—
3	(3)	00-300	NOBLE PARTNER 71 (R Lau) D Murray Smith 9-0	R Wernham	63
4	(4)	000024	RUSSIAN RED 13 (Mrs E Pyle) W Wightman 9-0	J Williams	74
5	(7)		SHEIKH PERCY (K Al-Said) N Callaghan 9-0	B Crossley	—
6	(5)	00000-0	SPANISH ENVOY 23J (J Scott) J Akehurst 9-0	R Hills	—
7	(9)	005000	STERLING BUCK 13 (C West-Meads) M Usher 9-0	M Marshall (5)	71
8	(8)	566	TIGER SHOOT 130 (C Lines) P Felden 9-0	A Shoults	79
9	(11)	25	DEAREST 189 (M Arbib) P Cole 8-9	T Quinn	97
10	(6)	556500	PRINCESS ROXANNE 71 (K Parker) A Bailey 8-9	G Duffield	50
11	(10)	46245	SAYULITA 20 (K McCreery) J Gosden 8-9	G Carter	● 99

BETTING: 11-4 Sayulita, 7-2 Loretto, 9-2 Sheikh Percy, 6-1 Dearest, 8-1 Russian Red, 10-1 Erevnon, Tiger Shoot, 12-1 Noble Partner, Princess Roxanne, 14-1 others.

2.15 MARIA HANDICAP (£2,937: 1m 2f) (14 runners)

1	(3)	420516	TEMPERING 6 (D,F) (M Hill) D Chapman 4-9-10	D Nicholls	94
2	(7)	445550	WINDSOR PARK 47 (B,C,D,BF,G) (B Bolton) R O'Sullivan 4-9-9	Dean McKeown	83
3	(6)	541205	TORGHIA 37 (F) (D Jones) D Arbuthnot 3-9-6	R Hills	93
4	(14)	430-0	TEREBRID 221 (Miss D Colvile) C Nelson 3-9-3	Paul Eddery	83
5	(8)	013310	DOUBLE ENTENDRE 91 (BF,F,G,S) (K Blake) M Haynes 4-9-1	T Quinn	94
6	(5)	405403	CROFT VALLEY 6 (F) (Miss V Pratt) R Whitaker 3-9-0	Dale Gibson	95
7	(9)	123351	FACT OR FICTION 20 (V,CD,F) (B Sanders) Miss B Sanders 4-8-13	W Newnes	● 99
8	(10)	401500	TARA'S DELIGHT 15J (D,F) (M Baxter Ltd) M Ryan 3-8-12	G Carter	91
9	(11)	U32150	CUVEE ROSE 69 (D,F) (Mrs C Brittain) C Brittain 3-8-11	B Doyle (7)	93
10	(12)	565445	OUR RON 13 (F) (G Bishop) R Smyth 3-8-10	A Martinez (7)	96
11	(13)	00-1046	SOOTY TERN 27J (D,F) (J Bradley) J Bradley 3-8-7	J Williams	98
12	(4)	04005-0	LUSTY LAD 13 (F,G) (G Nye) M Haynes 5-8-7	N Adams	80
13	(2)	550	FORGE BAY 50 (R Coombes) H Collingridge 3-8-2	C Rutter	85
14	(1)	050000	SLEEPLINE PALACE 49J (F) (Sleepline Holdings) M Channon 3-7-9	—	90

BETTING: 4-1 Fact Or Fiction, 9-2 Croft Valley, 5-1 Our Ron, 6-1 Double Entendre, 8-1 Tempering, Torghia, 10-1 Windsor Park, Terebrid, 12-1 Cuvee Rose, Tara's Delight, 14-1 others.

2.45 SELMA MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: £2,375: 1m) (10 runners)

1	(1)	66	BALDSKI BOY 41 (T Liang) J Eustace 9-0	W Ryan	● 99
2	(9)	0	FOURHEARTSDOUBLED 14 (L B Syndicate) J Scargill 9-0	J Williams	—
3	(5)	00050	JUST ONE 29 (V) (K Styles) M McCormack 9-0	A Clark	—
4	(4)	00	MERCHANT OF VENICE 39 (Hambleton Racing 1989) W Pearce 9-0	—	—
5	(2)	00	ORBITAL BOY 20 (Mrs C Dartford) J Akehurst 9-0	G Carter	—
6	(7)	02	HAMLET CROFT 8 (Manor Farm Dairies Ltd) A Bailey 8-9	—	94
7	(3)	035	JOLIZAL 86 (BF) (J R Leisure Ltd) D Morris 8-9	N Day	93
8	(6)	0	LILY SUGARS 27 (B Maloney) J Moore 8-9	Mark Denaro (7)	—
9	(10)	2	RAINSTONE 41 (F Salman) P Cole 8-9	T Quinn	96
10	(8)		RARE DETAIL (E) (Mrs C Dickson) Mrs L Piggott 8-9	B Crossley	—

BETTING: 7-4 Rainstone, 9-4 Baldski Boy, 4-1 Hamlet Croft, 6-1 Jolizal, 8-1 Rare Detail, 16-1 Just One, Fourheartsdoubled, 25-1 others.

3.15 GLAUCIA HANDICAP (£2,364: 7f) (7 runners)

1	(5)	112401	HELAWE 34 (B,CD,F,G) (A Finn) M Prescott 7-10-0	G Duffield	93
2	(3)	00-30	HALOX 34 (B) (Lawrence Industries Plc) J Sutcliffe 4-9-11	Dean McKeown	—
3	(2)	365042	YEOMAN BID 13 (B) (D Ivory) K Ivory 3-9-9	G Bardwell	98
4	(4)	0-05330	ARISTOCRATIC PETER 19J (B) (M Everett) R Smyth 3-8-3	A Martinez (7)	90
5	(1)	000620	SAM THE MAN 34 (B,BF) (E Fenaroli) Miss B Sanders 3-8-4	W Newnes	● 99
6	(7)	444265	ZINBAQ 27 (Mrs R Baker) C Benstead 4-7-13	R Hills	92
7	(6)	400300	SERGEANT MERYLL 13 (CD,G,S) (Mrs J Irving) P Howling 5-7-10	N Adams	95

BETTING: 5-2 Helawe, 7-2 Yeoman Bid, 5-1 Aristocratic Peter, 6-1 Sam The Man, 8-1 Zinbaq, 10-1 Sergeant Meryll, 12-1 Halox.

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
M Prescott	14	48	29.2
N Callaghan	14	54	25.9
J Gosden	5	20	25.0
J Scargill	6	32	18.8
R O'Sullivan	7	36	19.4
D Murray Smith	12	67	17.9

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
N Day	16	93	17.2
G Duffield	21	136	15.4
T Quinn	33	260	13.9
G Carter	20	148	13.5
B Crossley	7	64	10.9
Dean McKeown	5	46	10.9

Government backing needed for Olympic bid

DAVID MILLER
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Olympic Association (BOA), a group of unpretentious administrators representing the 30 winter and summer sports of the Olympic Games, meets today to take a decision that affects not just the face of British sport but to a degree the international face of the nation.

Do the British still see themselves as sufficiently important to ask the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the right to stage the Olympic Games at the turn of the century? Are we capable, temperamentally and financially, of launching a third bid in seven years that will have a realistic chance of being taken seriously by the rest of the world? The consequences either way are far-reaching.

Pedants remind me that the 21st century arrives at midnight, December 31, 2000, but the celebrations will begin a year early. If the present government, or any other, wishes to elevate British international prestige by peaceful means, relatively cheaply, then no global event is better capable of doing so than hosting the Olympic Games. Ask Seoul, or Barcelona, or Atlanta.

John Major should initiate committed Conservative support for the BOA in pursuit of this goal – if not in 2000, then in 2004 – and an all-party parliamentary committee should be created to maintain it. If the BOA decides this afternoon to proceed with another bid, it should do so knowing that it will be truly a British bid supported by government.

There is an element within the BOA, led by Sir Arthur Gold, the chairman, which questions Britain's capacity to challenge the governmental power behind the bid of a Peking, Berlin or Paris; and that it would be better not to bid at all than to do so inadequately. This opinion finds support among those who consider that the only powerful, and internationally appealing, bid from Britain can be made by London rather than the provinces.

This perception, for which justification can be found in any straw poll among IOC members – and particularly among their wives for whom an Olympic Games is an opportunity for subsidised tourism and shopping – certainly exists. However, the perception is likely to be challenged today by leading figures within the BOA, and particularly by those with the most recent first-hand experience of bidding. Most notably by the Princess Royal, the BOA's president.

It is known that both Manchester – again, following failure for 1996 – and London wish to bid. Birmingham, which failed for 1992, may also enter the ring. A decision on a candidate must be taken in April: today's debate is on whether to bid at all, and to establish basic guidelines. Britain has never successfully bid: in 1908 and 1948 we got the IOC out of a jam.

When London last attempted, for 1992, it received a derisory two votes from the BOA. Now there are three interested London groups, which are expected to amalgamate. The committee at present led by Sebastian Coe is confident that it can gather the finance, public and private, together with the collaboration of the Metropolitan police and London transport, to overcome the seemingly insuperable odds of staging a Games in one of the world's most congested cities; a city, moreover, which at present is almost wholly without adequate modern facilities, or a local government authority such as the Greater London Council.

The optimism of those gathering around a London project is worthy. Yet the BOA, and the government, in the person of the prime minister and his fellow sporting enthusiasts such as Chris Patten, may well decide that the enormous investment required would be better spent, for reasons both practical and political, in the provinces. It is relevant that six of the seven summer Games since Munich in 1972 will not have been staged in a capital city.

The Princess Royal, whose royal position does not prevent her most active involvement among IOC colleagues, is of the opinion that Manchester's bid for 1996 was excellently led by Bob Scott, substantially raised British sporting prestige, and was seen to be a credible, sports-orientated bid.

She is expected to advocate continuity, with Manchester and Scott; and will be supported today by her IOC colleague Mary Glen-Haig, and by the retired honorary IOC member Lord Luke. "It is essential we stay in the ring, maintain the momentum, and show that we care," Lord Luke says.

What is evident to those who witnessed the Manchester campaign for 1996 at close quarters, and the ultimate success of Atlanta, is the enormous time commitment that is required from a team of personable representatives lobbying IOC members around the world.

Billy Payne and Charlie Battle, of Atlanta, both lawyers, were exceptional, devoting four years exclusively to the campaign and flying inter-continental sometimes daily for more than a week with five nights in the air. Leopoldo Rodes, a banker who led the Barcelona bid, met each of the 90 IOC members *an average seven times*. He would fly to Mexico City or Cairo for the weekend just to join two or three IOC members at a football match.

Such is the demand and commitment of the bid process. London, if nominated by the BOA, would be starting from square one.

SKIING

Furuseth solves his slalom quandary after Tomba falls

MADONNA di Campiglio, Italy (Reuter) – Ole Christian Furuseth, of Norway, scored a crushing win in a World Cup slalom race yesterday after Alberto Tomba, the favourite, fell on the second run.

Furuseth, with the advantage of starting last after clocking the best first-leg time, had little left to do when the Italian, his only serious rival, took a tumble just after halfway. He finished more than two seconds ahead of Tomas Fogdoe, of Sweden, who came from the back markers to secure second place, with Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, third.

Tomba fell soon after the intermediate point where he held a 1.28sec advantage over then leader, Fogdoe. He took a right-hand turn a fraction too low and slipped too far to stop himself straddling the next gate. "I wanted to win so I pushed hard," the disappointed Italian, who had won two races in a row in Italy in the past week, said. He was also aiming for a third successive slalom win at Madonna di Campiglio.

Furuseth said the departure of Tomba, who trailed him by just 0.49sec after the first leg, had left him in a quandary. "I was thinking I would have to go fast but when I knew Tomba was out, I wasn't sure what to do," he said. "I asked myself whether I should take risks or not and decided it would be better to get down safely."

Furuseth showed little sign of caution on his second run, clocking the second best time of 47.60sec for an aggregate of 1min 37.96sec.

Tomba, who lost his chance to overtake Franz Heinz, of Switzerland, and move to the top of the overall World Cup standings, said: "I think I would have pulled off a great time on the lower part of the course." Fogdoe, aged 20, a policeman's son from Gallivare in north Sweden, the most northerly point where World Cup races have been held, was overjoyed. "I couldn't have dreamt this," he said. "It's impossible to grasp. I was so far behind after the first run I decided to take my chance and go for broke."

Fogdoe, second in the junior world championships on the same piste two years ago, said the Madonna di Campiglio race was popular in Sweden because his compatriot, Ingemar Stenmark, had won there eight times.

Girardelli was annoyed by two mistakes on the second run which cost him second place by 0.04sec. "But getting in the top three is always good," he said. "Anyway, I knew Furuseth and Tomba were out of reach after the first leg."

The result highlighted the changing trend in the World Cup circuit with the traditional giants, Austria and Switzerland, looking far frailer than usual. After nine events Austria and Switzerland have just one victory each.

RESULTS: 1, O Furuseth (Nor), 1min 37.96sec; 2, T Fogdoe (Swe), 1:40.04; 3, M Girardelli (Lux), 1:40.08; 4, T Sanqassinger (Austria), 1:40.81; 5, M Trinscher (Austria), 1:40.82; 6, B Gstrein (Austria), 1:41.19; equal 7, Mats Ericson (Swe), J Polig (It), 1:41.33; 9, L Kjus (Nor), 1:41.35; 10, K Ladstaetter (It), 1:41.37. **Leading slalom standings** (after three events): 1, Furuseth, 48pts; 2, A Tomba (It), 40; 3 equal P Roth (Ger), Girardelli, 34; 5, Tritscher, 31; 6, Fogdoe, 30. **Leading overall World Cup standings:** 1, F Heinzer (Switz), 76; 2, Tomba, 72; 3, Furuseth, 63; 4, A Skaardal (Nor), 52; 5, Girardelli, 51; 6, F Piccard (Fr), 45.

Facing up to a bright future

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Well groomed: Eubank, who marries on Sunday, talking about his plans yesterday

Eubank set for a million

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Eubank could be a millionaire by next summer if everything goes according to plan. Barry Hearn, the manager of the World Boxing Organisation's middleweight champion, has three world title bouts lined up that could make Eubank £1 million.

Hearn said yesterday: "There is no rush to leave these shores and fight in America. We can do as well or better by fighting at home and Chris will earn £1 million from his next three fights.

"It's a tough game. He came through a terrible war with Benn to get what he's got and he's not going to throw it away. Benn will have to wait for our time, our money and our place."

Eubank will first defend against Kevin Watts, of the United States, and not Dennis Milton, as originally proposed, at the Brighton Conference Centre on February 23, then unify the title with a bout against Mike McCallum, of Jamaica, the World Boxing Association champion, followed by a bout with Julian Jackson, who recenly won the World Boxing Council belt, or Michael Nunn, the International Boxing Federation holder.

Eubank, who marries his girlfriend, Karron, on Sunday said, "I'm not going to get complacent. I am back in training mentally if not physically. Since winning the title I've been so busy that I've hardly had time to think about boxing, but I'll be back training again on New Year's Day."

Another Hearn boxer, Jim McDonnell, said on Monday that he hoped to return to the ring in April or May. It was thought that McDonnell would retire after being taken to hospital after being knocked out by Kenny Vice.

McDonnell said, "People thought that what happened against Vice was a sign that I was all washed up but there was a reason for that defeat. I had a physical problem that I don't want to go into. Barry Hearn told me he would have preferred me to pack it in but when I told him about the problem I had he agreed with me."

GOLF

Sponsor refuses to wait for Davies to conquer world

By PATRICIA DAVIES

LAURA Davies will be relieved of the responsibility of having to eat Weetabix for breakfast in the new year, for the manufacturer of the cerealhas decided not to renew its sponsorship of the former British and US Open women's champion.

"It is very difficult to justify the expense of individual sponsorship," Richard George, the chairman and managing director of the firm, said. "At the time we sponsored Laura, she was ready to conquer the world as Nancy Lopez had done a few years earlier and I thought Weetabix could benefit commercially from this success.

"She did not – or at least has not yet – fulfilled this promise and I don't feel Weetabix has had much opportunity to use her for commercial purposes as she is not a superstar. She may yet become one, who knows?"

Davies's contract, which was for three years, expires at the end of this month, as do the contracts of Muffin Spencer-Devlin and Sally Little, who both play full-time on the LPGA Tour in the United States.

Ironically, Spencer-Devlin's eccentric antics during the pre-tournament dinner at the Ford Classic at Woburn in April attracted reams of publicity. But George stressed that his decision to stop sponsoring individuals had nothing to do with that and had virtually been taken at the end of last year. He intends to focus his efforts on the women's British Open, which his company has been backing since 1987. The prize-money has been raised to £150,000, an increase of £20,000, with £25,000 going to the winner.

"We will concentrate on trying to build up the championship to truly Open status," George, whose dream is to have a representative American contingent competing, said. "We will be continuing talks with the LPGA to try to bring this to fruition and in the event that we could bring it off, we would immediately double the prize fund. There wouldn't be many women's tournaments bigger than $600,000 [about £310,000].

"I still believe there is room for more integration of the American and European tours, which could be progressed by a European sweep of, say, three weeks by the LPGA, with the Open probably at the end after tournaments in Germany and Sweden.

"But it isn't something I see happening in the next three or four years. It's just a personal view and one which does not have any other supporters as yet."

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

National swimathon has target of £2m

By JANE WYATT

THE British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD) is one of two charities hoping to benefit from the 1991 national swimathon, launched in London by the Olympic gold medal winner, Duncan Goodhew. Twenty-five thousand swimmers of all ages and abilities will be training over the next three months in preparation for the event, which begins on February 28.

In order to reach the target of £2 million, more than two million lengths will have to be swum, albeit in rather more comfortable circumstances than the equivalent distance of 1,666 Channel crossings. As president of Swimathon 1991, Duncan Goodhew has urged anyone who is able to swim to join in by raising personal sponsorship and contributing a £5 entrance fee.

The event has its genesis in 1984 when Leeds held the first 5,000 metres swim marathon which was followed by a pilot event in 1986 at 15 pools across London. By 1988 more than five and a half thousand entrants raised £750,000. In 1990 swimathon went national when it supported the ITV telethon appeal and 12,000 swimmers swam in 123 pools.

Next year's event will cover over 200 pools across the country centring on Bristol, Manchester, Newport, Birmingham and Edinburgh.

Although its primary aim is to raise money, the swimathon is also intended to encourage more people to become swimmers, both able bodied and disabled, and for them to enjoy taking regular exercise.

If the swimathon can reach its target, the funds will give a welcome boost to the BSAD, which is constantly in need of cash to support its work in the development of sport and recreation for people with any form of physical, sensory or mental disability.

It has more than 84,000 members and 830 clubs, providing opportunities for people to try new sports.

SQUASH RACKETS

Debt collectors back Lambs

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

LAMBS Club contested the first half of the Pimm's Premier League under the fashionably entrepreneurial banner of the now collapsed Levitt Group. They will begin the second half of the season with new sponsorship from London and Provincial Factors.

Those who follow such matters in the City of London will know London and Provincial as one of the leading factoring agents or debt collectors, in the country, which lends added piquancy to their new connection with Lambs, the City club left holding a minor unpaid part of the massive Levitt failure.

Those who follow squash affairs will recognise an astute takeover. Lambs were lying second on the Pimm's league table as they went into this week's vital clash against the leaders, Carlisle Cannons. Their signing of Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, the British Open champion, fighting to maintain top form after a decade of supremacy, has kept them in the headlines since the opening fixture and may yet lead to their second league championship.

"London and Provincial called us last week, at six in the morning the day after the first news broke of problems in the Levitt group," Tony Fletcher, a Lambs director, said yesterday. "It shows the appeal of league squash that such a major company should be so alert to the first intimation of a sponsorship becoming available."

The team will be known as L and P Lambs for the rest of the season. It is to be hoped that the change does not follow the pattern established by similar moves in the SRA women's superleague this week.

Last season's superleague title was won by Colets Club largely through the second string strength of Alison Cumings. This week the team became Brooks Colets under new sponsorship from an American sports shoe manufacturer and was beaten in Nottingham when Cumings went down to Suzanne Horner.

The Nottingham squad is sponsored for the second season by Reebok, another shoe company, which presumably meant added from a victory ensured by the first appearance at third string of Jane Martin, the British under 19 champion.

Lisa Opie, the British No. 1 and world No. 2, lost for the second time in 24 hours to Australia's Michelle Martin, who also beat her in Helsinki for the Finnish Open title, but the strength of Warner and Martin carried Reebok Nottingham into second place.

SRA WOMEN'S SUPERLEAGUE: Reebok Nottingham 2, Brooks Colets 1 (L Opie lost to M Martin 9-10, 9-5, 10-8, 2-9, 6-9; S Horner bt A Cumings 9-1, 9-2, 8-10, 9-6; J Martin bt C Jackman 9-7, 9-7, 0-9, 9-2). IMS Courtlands 1, Lee on Solent 2. (F Geaves lost to L Soutter 9-9, 0-9, 1-9; S Langley lost to L Charman 10-9, 9-10, 3-9, 3-9; R Strauss bt F Roberts 2-9, 6-9, 9-4, 9-2, 9-5). League positions: Caversham 17, Nottingham 15, Colets 8, Solent 6, Courtlands 2.

SKIING

Merle sets early pace

MORZINE, France (Reuter) – Carole Merle, of France, set the fastest time yesterday in the first practice for the women's World Cup downhill, scheduled for Friday. Merle, the winner of the super-giant slalom World Cup last season, completed the course in 1min 45.86sec. Heidi Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, was second, 0.01sec behind Merle, ahead of Katja Seizinger, of Germany, and Chantal Bournissen, the Swiss who won a World Cup downhill last weekend.

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES: 1, C Merle (Fr), 1min 45.86sec; 2, H Zurbriggen (Switz), 1:45.97; 3, K Seizinger (Ger), 1:46.04; 4, C Bournissen (Switz), 1:46.06; 5, L Larche (Can), 1:46.21; 6, A Haas (Austria), 1:46.22; 7, V Zelenskaya (USSR), 1:46.23; 8, K Dedler (Ger), 1:46.27; 9, K Pace (Can), 1:46.29; 10, S Gladishva (USSR), 1:46.47.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	+ temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
St Anton	30	100	good	varied	good	fine	-4	15/12
Excellent skiing, most runs open with no lift queues								
FRANCE								
Chamonix	30	175	good	varied	fair	cloud	-1	19/12
Good skiing throughout the Chamonix Valley								
Tignes	60	170	good	varied	good	cloud	-9	18/12
Pistes in excellent condition. Off piste varied and dangerous in some areas								
Val d'Isère	62	110	good	varied	good	fair	-7	13/12
Superb skiing throughout the resort. Off piste remains dangerous because of avalanches								
Val Thorens	95	145	good	powder	good	snow	-1	19/12
Good skiing throughout the Trois Vallees								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	30	100	good	powder	good	fine	-12	16/12
Excellent skiing with some good off piste. Most of the lifts open with no queues								
Verbier	30	150	good	fair	fair	fine	-4	12/12
Good skiing above 2,000m. Icy patches on lower slopes								
Zermatt	90	110	good	crust	fair	fine	-10	13/12
Very good skiing on all three areas.								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: Snow level, 2,150ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper, some complete, icy and thin; middle, thin. Access roads open; one chairlift open, three tows open. **Glenshee:** Snow level, 2,000ft; vertical runs, 400ft. Runs: upper, none complete; lower, two complete, very narrow. Access roads open; chairlifts closed; two tows open. **Lecht, Aonach** Bright and crisp with good sunny spells. Occasional snow showers. Freezing level around 1,500ft with a strong northwest wind, and a high wind chill factor on the slopes. **Outlook:** Rain will spread from the northwest to all the skiing areas. Some snow on higher slopes. Strong southwest winds may increase to gale force on higher slopes.

● Information supplied by the Scottish

Leng reveals training methods

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Ivyleaze evening team in Gloucestershire, whose training methods and meticulous stable management procedures have helped make Virginia Leng a world and European three-day-event champion, has long been a byword in the sport for excellence.

"Competitions are won in the yard as much as in the saddle" is the maxim of the team which, in addition to Leng, includes her mother, Heather Holgate, who runs the yard, Dorothy Willis, who schools the young horses, and a bevy of girl groups.

Leng generously reveals their methods in *Training the Event Horse* (Stanley Paul; £16.99), an informative and authoritative book – written with Genevieve Murphy – which is likely to become a bible for the aspiring event rider.

Murphy's adept handling of the abundant material has ensured a clear, logical order bolstered by well captioned photographs.

Little at Ivyleaze is left to chance from the buying of a suitable horse ("Look for boldness and honesty . . .") to its training ("prevention is better than cure") and its fitness (six days' work a week for two to three months is recommended for a one day event). The feeding of event horses – which has been raised to an exact science by Holgate – is thoroughly examined.

Although Leng says her training procedures – all aimed at making a horse feel happy and contented – are not written in concrete, they have been well tested. In the last ten years, she has won Badminton twice, Burghley five times, three European championships and one world championship.

The tenets of horsemanship to which Leng adheres would find favour with Sylvia Loch, chairman of the Lusitano Breed Society, whose scholarly and superbly produced book, *Dressage* (The Sportsman's Press; £24.95p) makes an impassioned plea for modern dressage riders to look to the classical masters for inspiration.

With formidable research Loch traces the course of dressage history from Xenophan, who rode in the sixth century BC through the formative years of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries and the influence of the Frenchman, La Guerninière to such latter day masters as Colonel Podhajsky, the director of the Spanish riding school from 1939-65, and Nuno Oliveira, of Portugal. Loch's own favourite.

This is not a manual of horsemanship but more a dissertation on the influence of the masters today. Loch recommends that course books from the classical masters should become compulsory for every dressage judge after elementary levels.

Three other excellent equestrian books produced this year are *Great Horsemen of the World* by Guy Wathen (David and Charles; £16.95), *The Stars of Showjumping* by Judith Draper (Stanley Paul; £12.99), and *The de Nemethy Method, Modern Techniques for Training the Showjumper and the Rider* by Bertalan de Nemethy (Doubleday; £14.95).

SPORTS BOOKS OF THE YEAR

What are the best sports books of 1990? Specialist writers for The Times *give their verdicts*

Jack Doyle, a giant who fell to earth

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THOSE of us who live out our lives in triangular journeys to the office, pub and grocery store, and whose bloodiest struggles are with the dentist and his corner man, will marvel at the full life of Jack Doyle.

The Irishman from County Cork travelled the world as a heavyweight boxer, singer and movie actor. He had 25 contests, won 17 of them, made [illegible] in four films.

Admired by Edward VIII, Clark Gable and Errol Flynn, the playboy fighter became the darling of London, Hollywood and New York in the 1930s. He married the beautiful actress, Movita, squandered almost £1 million and died, aged 65, shoeless and homeless off the Edgware Road in 1978.

The story of the oft 5in giant and the four women in his life was just waiting for the right man to tell it. That man is Michael Tanner, a journalist who has been involved in promoting boxing and rock concerts. His *Jack Doyle, Fighting For Love* (Stanley Paul, £16.99) was shortlisted for sports book of the year.

Jack wanted to become a world champion after reading *How to Box* by Jack Dempsey. Doyle had a big punch and was just the sort of man to draw a crowd. In 1933 his contest with Jack Petersen drew 90,000 at the White City. If Doyle had lived today he would have been a contender and fought for the world title.

One of the pleasures of sports journalism is the work of Hugh McIlvanney. So students of boxing and writing will welcome the re-issue of his brilliant *McIlvanney on Boxing* in softback with an extra chapter, representing the Eighties (Stanley Paul, £7.99).

Those who like arguments about who was the greatest should get *Henry Cooper's 100 Greatest Boxers* (Macdonald Queen Anne Press, £16.95), written by Norman Giller

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Zenith Data Systems Cup
Second round
7.30 unless stated

Brighton v Charlton
Derby County v Coventry
Luton v West Ham (7.45)
Man City v Middlesbrough (7.45)
Norwich v Millwall (7.45)
Wolves v Leeds Utd (all-ticket)

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: AC Delco Cup: Third round: Molesey v Grays.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: South Liverpool v Southport.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland Floodlight Cup: Alvechurch v Moor Green; Hinckley v VS Rugby.

FA VASE: Third round: Priory Eastwood v Rothwell.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton v Blackburn (7.0); Huddersfield v Rotherham; Newcastle v Leeds (7.0); Nottingham Forest v Liverpool (7.0). **Second division:** Barnsley v Notts County (7.0); Hull v York (7.0); Middlesbrough v Grimsby (7.0); Scunthorpe v Oldham (7.0); Stoke v Bolton (7.0).

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Crystal Palace v Ipswich; Fulham v Arsenal (2.0); Reading v Millwall (2.0); Swindon v Chelsea (7.0).

WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Freedonia Cup: Leyton Orient v Wokingham.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Welton.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Aston Villa v Sheffield Wed (7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Castleford v Warrington.

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: First division: Wakefield Trinity v Featherstone Rovers.

BARLA LANCASHIRE CUP: Final: Leigh East v Thatto Heath (at Leigh RLFC).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: British and Commonwealth lightweight championship: Carl Crook (Chorley) v Ian Honeywood (Bexley) (at Guildhall, Preston 7.30).

TENNIS: British Women's Association Christmas tournament (Queen's Club).

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: BSB 14.00-18.00: National Football League. **Screensport** 19.00-20.00.

BASEBALL: Eurosport 07.30-08.30: Major League highlights from the United States.

BASKETBALL: BSB 19.30-21.30 and 00.30-02.30 (tomorrow): Live coverage and further highlights of Kingston v Split.

BOXING: Screensport 14.00-15.00 and 20.00-21.00: Professional events: Gonzales v Pascual from The Forum, and Matchroom event from the Guildhall, Preston.

EQUESTRIANISM: Screensport 16.00-17.00: Show jumping highlights from Bordeaux. **Eurosport** 16.30-17.30: Show jumping highlights from Olympia.

EUROSPORT NEWS: Eurosport 18.30-19.00 and 23.00-23.30.

FRENCH SPORT: Screensport 13.00-13.30.

GOLF: Eurosport 10.00-11.00 and 22.00-23.00: Highlights of the 1990 women's professional season, and champions challenge. **Screensport** 13.30-14.00: Highlights from the European young masters.

ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 10.00-12.00 and 22.00-00.30: National Hockey League.

ICE SKATING: Eurosport 09.00-10.00 and **Screensport** 17.00-18.00: Figure skating from the Skate Canada festival.

MARTIAL ARTS FESTIVAL: Eurosport 11.00-12.00: From Paris.

MOTORCYCLING: BSB 16.00-17.00. Motocross.

MOTOR SPORT: BSB 23.00-23.30.

RACING: BSB 13.30-14.00 and 23.30-midnight: Racing news. **Screensport** 22.00-22.30: From Hong Kong.

RUGBY LEAGUE: BSB 21.30-22.30: Great Highlights of Great Britain's tour of New Zealand.

SKIING: Screensport 07.00-08.00: Pro-tour. **Eurosport** 17.30-18.00: World Cup highlights from Madonna di Campiglio, Italy.

SNOOKER: Eurosport 12.30-14.30 and 23.30-01.30: Dubai Classic.

SNOW REPORT: Eurosport 20.00-21.00.

SPORTSDESK: BSB 13.25, 18.00, 22.30 and midnight.

TENNIS: Eurosport 14.30-16.30: Europe v United States, featuring Graf and Garrison. **BSB** 18.30-19.30.

TENPIN BOWLING: Screensport 15.00-15.30.

TRANS WORLD SPORT: Eurosport 19.00-20.00.

UPDATE: Screensport 18.00.

VOLLEYBALL: Screensport 08.00-09.00: Soviet Union v France.

FOOTBALL

United face stern test against French opponents

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER United, England's only representatives in Europe, will have to be at their inspirational best if they are to reach the last four of the Cup Winners' Cup. They have been drawn against Montpellier, the French entrants who have already removed two notable contenders, PSV Eindhoven and Steaua Bucharest.

United's victims, Pecsi Munkas in the first round and Wrexham in the second, are negligible by comparison. Both were dismissed with ease and the quarter-final, which is to start at Old Trafford on March 6, will be a significantly sterner test for Alex Ferguson's enigmatic outfit.

Their inconsistency has been illustrated by their results in the homes of the two stronger sides in England. In the middle of September, United suffered their worst defeat by Liverpool for 65 years and six weeks later they inflicted on Arsenal their heaviest loss since 1921.

Although they will be steadier once Robson is able to play a full part, they promise to remain unpredictable. If United are to match their best performance in the competition (they reached the semi-final in 1984 before being knocked out by Juventus), their defence at least will have to be consistent.

Ferguson foresees the first leg being a lively occasion. "It is a terrifically attractive draw," he said yesterday, "because they will come to entertain." Valderrama, the Colombia captain, is invariably colourful but Montpellier, like United, have yet to concede a goal so far and their sound defence also features their leading scorer.

Blanc, their sweeper, has claimed 11 goals but his contribution at the back is likely to be more restrained. "We will have to change our plans to counter United's non-stop style," Henryk Casperczak, the Polish coach of Montpellier, said. "They are strong in the air and we are not used to their physical game."

After dismissing a depleted PSV Eindhoven, Montpellier beat Steaua Bucharest 8-0 on aggregate. The Romanians, who were crowned as the champions of Europe in 1986 and were the runners-up to AC Milan last year, have since sold their leading individuals. Nevertheless, the margin of their defeat was emphatic.

"The draw could have been worse," Louis Nicollin, the Montpellier chairman, said, "but, after the first two rounds, we don't need to fear anybody." The first leg, in his opinion, will be decisive. So it will be if United's home European record is broken. They have not lost in 44 ties.

Juventus and Sampdoria, the Italian survivors in the Cup Winners' Cup, were kept apart but Atalanta and Inter Milan were paired together in the Uefa Cup. AC Milan, the European cup holders, will be without van Basten, who is suspended for three ties, when they meet Marseilles.

The French champions, Waddle's employers, could be reinforced by the return of Cantona and Stojkovic but Franz Beckenbauer is not certain still to be guiding them.

● ZURICH: The European Cup final will be staged in Bari on May 29 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in Rotterdam on May 15, subject to the approval of the European football union's executive committee (AP reports). The committee will also decide whether clubs from former East Germany should compete in the 1991-2 European club competitions.

European Cup
Spartak Moscow v Real Madrid
AC Milan v Marseilles
Red Star Belgrade v Dynamo Dresden
Bayern Munich v Porto

Cup Winners' Cup
Legia Warsaw v Sampdoria
Dynamo Kiev v Barcelona
Manchester United v Montpellier
Standard Liege v Juventus

Uefa Cup
Bologna v Sporting Lisbon
Brondby v Torpedo Moscow
Atalanta v Internazionale
AS Roma v Anderlecht

Matches to be played on March 6 and 20.

Hooligans are main worry as Germans unite against Swiss

STUTTGART (Reuter) — United Germany makes its first foray on to the football field today, hoping that its hooligan element will not mar the match against Switzerland. "We want great enthusiasm, but no hooligans," the team captain, Lothar Matthäus, said.

The match was arranged after November's gala game between East and West German teams in Leipzig was called off because of spectator violence in the former Communist state. After a riot by West German supporters in Luxembourg at a European championship qualifier in October, officials want the first united Germany game for almost 50 years to celebrate West Germany's World Cup triumph and look positively to the future.

Stuttgart police said around 150 officers would watch supporters on their way through the city to the stadium, but said they did not expect any trouble. "But if there is trouble, we have the experience to deal with it after staging matches at the 1988 European championships," a police spokeswoman said.

● SEVILLE: Spain will aim to score freely when they take on Albania in a European championship group one qualifying match today. The Spaniards are expected to start the game with three forwards — Emilio Butragueño, Carlos Múñoz and Manolo Sánchez.

Spain are in third place in group one behind France and Czechoslovakia, but have played only two games against their rivals' three. The Spaniards started their European championship with a win over Iceland but slipped to a 3-2 defeat by Czechoslovakia in Prague after leading 2-1 and seeming to have the match won.

Albania, bottom of the group without a point or a goal, should set Spain few problems. Spain have come out on top in their only two previous encounters, 2-1 and 5-0.

● VALLETTA: The Netherlands, led by Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, have much to avenge when they play Malta in a European championship group six qualifier today (Reuter reports).

It was Malta who stopped the Dutch, competition winners in 1988, from reaching the 1984 finals. Then, with their group rivals, Spain, needing to score 11 goals against Malta in the final qualifying match, the Dutch looked sure of going through, until Spain romped home 12-1.

● WASHINGTON: Eleven United States cities have filed early applications to take part in the 1994 World Cup, the World Cup Organising Committee has announced (Reuter reports). Thirty-two communities have formally stated their desire to host World Cup matches and have until May 1 to submit applications.

Among the early applicants, nine sent in bids to stage the qualifying draw in December next year. They are Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Honolulu, Kansas City, New York/New Haven, Charlotte, Orlando, and Phoenix.

Jim Trecker, a spokesman for Organising Committee, said a report in a British newspaper that major stadium owners are unwilling to commit themselves to the World Cup was "totally absurd". "We've never had a stadium problem," he said. "In fact, it's quite the contrary."

Hertfordshire put Meara under pressure

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL
by GEORGE CHESTERTON

THE Independent Schools went down 3-1 to a talented Hertfordshire under-18 side at the Bank of England ground, Roehampton. A defensive lapse let Hertfordshire through for Somers to score their first goal. Five minutes after the interval, with Hertfordshire now well on top, Baker scored again, and Henman further increased their lead after an hour.

Sansom pulled a goal back with a 25-yard shot but Hertfordshire were denied further successes by the goalkeeping of Meara.

In the fourth round of the ESFA Trophy Derby and Newcastle drew 1-1 after extra time and now face a second replay.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SQUAD: (for Morecambe under-18 festival in April): J Meara (Aldenham), A Kewick (Eton), N Groves (Hampton), L Allen (Elizabeth College, Guernsey), D Walmsley (Manchester GS), N Gorton (OEGS Blackburn), J Richardson (Brentwood), E Rees (Charterhouse), M Ford (KES Witley), A Sansom (Brentwood), J Taylor (OEGS Blackburn), R Hill (Hulme GS), T Hollies-Hill (Elizabeth College, Guernsey), A Griffin (Hampton), C Boyce (Wolverhampton GS).

American connection cannot carry the day

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THREE more non-League sides bowed out of the FA Cup in second-round replays on Monday night. Colchester United assumed an early lead at Leyton Orient but were beaten 4-1, having a player sent off in the process.

Mike Masters,a United States international who narrowly missed selection for Italia '90, claimed Colchester's opener, but by the time that Stuart Grainger was dismissed for a blatant two-footed tackle on Steve Castle, eye-catching goals had been scored by Danny Carter, Terry Howard, Geoff Pike and Castle.

Orient secured a third-round tie at home to Swindon Town, while Colchester and Ian Atkins, their player-manager, are now free to concentrate on plotting an escape from the GM Vauxhall Conference.

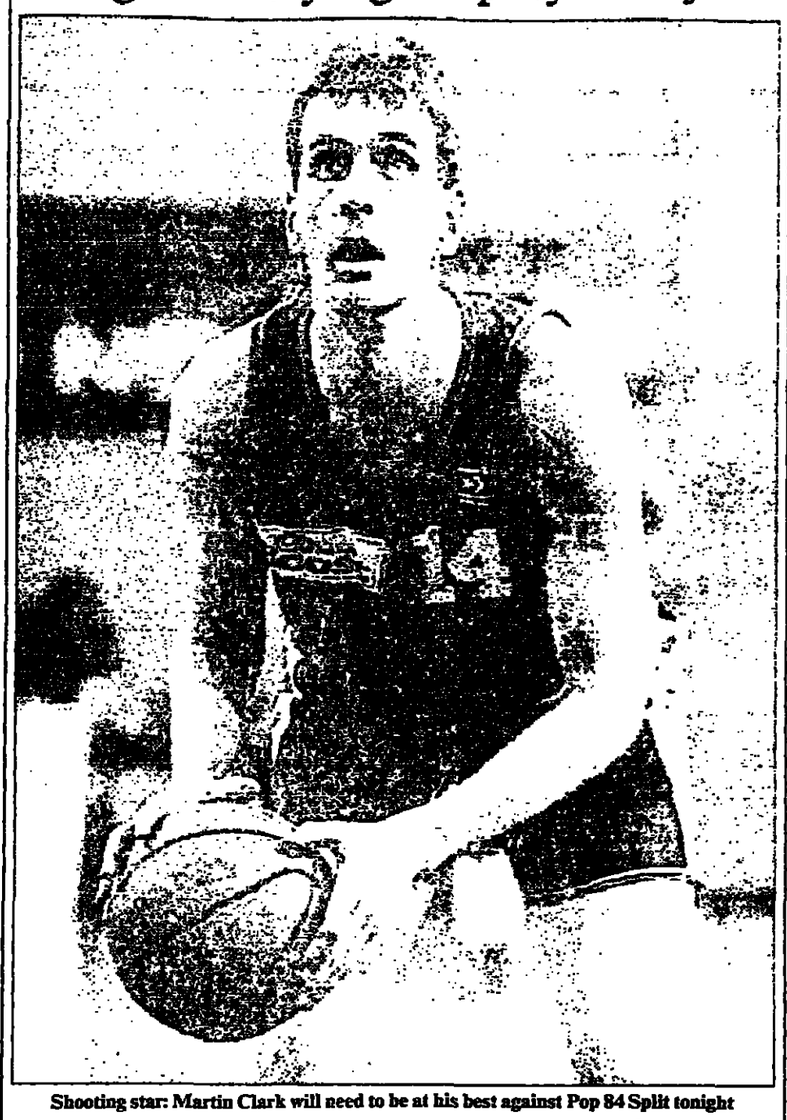
Peterborough United are away to Port Vale in the next round, after their 2-0 home success over Wycombe Wanderers, another Conference side. Halsall and Culpin struck the goals, but not before Wycombe, managed by Martin O'Neill, had provided them with a few frights.

There was to be no fairy-tale ending for Leek Town either. They lost 4-0 away to Chester City, who will entertain Bournemouth in January at the Moss Rose Ground they share with Macclesfield. Bertschin, Dale, Abel and Painter provided the goals.

Halifax Town, who are bottom of the fourth division, entertained Rotherham United, rooted to the foot of the third, at The Shay, where Rotherham scraped through by 2-1 in another replay. Evans and Johnson claimed the goals which earned Rotherham a third-round trip to Swansea City.

Inclement weather delayed Mansfield Town's second-round tie against York City until Monday night. It was the Nottinghamshire team who secured a third-round home date with Sheffield Wednesday thanks to a 2-1 win, with Charles, and Wilkinson scoring for the hosts.

Kingston relying on player of year



Shooting star: Martin Clark will need to be at his best against Pop 84 Split tonight

Tall order for award winner

By NICHOLAS HARLING

MARTIN Clark, who plays for Kingston at Crystal Palace tonight against Pop 84 Split, the European champions, yesterday was named player of the year by the English Basket Ball Association (EBBA).

The award was one of four announced by the EBBA. Chris Castle, who helped Sheffield to the top of the national league and to win the national cup in March, won the women's award, and Mike McLoughlin, of Cheshire, and Sarah Doyle, of Wirral, were selected as the outstanding young players of the year.

Kingston's second tie in the European Champion's Cup final pool of eight — the first at their adopted home in the National Sports Centre — gives Clark the opportunity to atone for his wretched contribution against the Yugoslav national team at the Albert Hall two weeks ago. On that occasion he collected only six points and five rebounds.

Although the 6ft 9in England forward maintained a subsequent improvement with 24 points in Kingston's defeat in Salonika last week, it will be tonight that Kingston will need him at his best.

Kevin Cadle, the Kingston coach, a satellite television commentator at the international with Yugoslavia, needs no reminding about the efficiency of the two 6ft 8in Split forwards, Savic and Perasovic, who hit 44 points between them at the Albert Hall.

Toni Kukoc was an absentee then but the dynamic 6ft 10in all-purpose player, who is refusing offers of $3 million to play in America's National Basketball Association with Chicago Bulls, last week helped his club make good an early nine-point deficit to trounce Scabolini Pesaro 86-66. Kingston would do well to heed the warning. If they fail to build on a similar early advantage, they will probably go the same way as the Italians.

● England, Wales and Ireland are grouped together in the qualifying round of the 1992 men's European junior championships, in Cork from August 18 to 25.

● Steve Lloyd, the Wales coach, has resigned two days after his team finished last in the European Small Nations tournament.

ATHLETICS

Marathon contract unsigned

WITH the race only four months away, the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) and the title sponsor of the 1991 London Marathon, ADT, have not yet signed an agreement with the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) which commits them to hosting the World Cup in conjunction with the event (David Powell writes). The stumbling block has been the difficulties presented by the integration of the World Cup into an existing mass-participation event.

"It's causing more problems than I thought it would," Jon Wigley, the managing director of competitions for the IAAF, said. "It has been complex defining the rights of the London sponsor and the sponsor who exists with the world series." But there was no doubt, he said, that the World Cup would go ahead in conjunction with London, on April 21.

However, all main parties — the BAAB, ADT, the London Marathon and the IAAF — said that the agreement should have been signed by now, each adding that it was in no doubt it would be. "Perhaps it was not started as early in the day as it should have been, but we hope to sign it soon," an ADT spokesman said.

Chris Brasher, the London race director, blamed the world governing body. "The IAAF had our technical requirements in January of this year and did not solve them until a few weeks ago," he said.

Competitive road ends for Spedding

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLIE Spedding, Britain's leading marathon runner at the last two Olympic Games, announced his retirement from international competition yesterday. Eight months after a fourth Achilles tendon operation, he remains unable to train on successive days. His injury problems have precipitated his decision.

Spedding, aged 38, has been as colourful a character on the track as off it: an astute tactician and satirical observer. No one hypnotised, by the marathon boom of the 1980s, into staying up through the night to watch live coverage of the 1984 Olympic race in Los Angeles will forget how he sneaked a medal.

The cheek of it. All those marathon luminaries — Salazar, de Castella, Seko, Ikangaa — and it was Spedding, a newcomer that year, who sorted them out with a merciless pace. "The greatest line-up of marathon talent the world has seen," *Athletics Weekly* reported.

His bronze, behind Lopes and Treacy, was his reward for seeking to better himself. He had been to the European championships and Commonwealth Games as a 10,000 metres runner. "I thought that even if I could scrape into the team for the Olympics, I wouldn't get anywhere, so I tried the marathon," he recalled yesterday.

His experiment, in January 1984, was unforgettable. There has never been a marathon finish like it: the first four covered by two seconds, with Spedding the winner. Three months later he won the London Marathon, but, despite running his fastest time of 2hr 08min 33sec, he finished second to Steve Jones when defending the title.

The loss of television pictures from the front of this year's London Marathon fed Spedding's wit. "When there was nothing left to say, and only a view of the hordes streaming past a stationary camera, David Coleman's professionalism came to the rescue; he enthusiastically invited us all to sit back and 'play the game of see who you know'," he wrote. Hopefully, the cameras will be back in contact with the sharp end next year; but, without Spedding to spot, the game will be less fun.

● EAST RUTHERFORD: If anybody sets a world indoor mile best at the Vitalis-Meadowlands invitation meeting here on February 8, he or she will collect $100,000 (£52,000) (AP reports). Doina Melinte, of Romania, holds the women's record with 4min 17.13sec; Eamonn Coghlan, of Ireland, holds the men's with 3min 49.78sec.

● INDIANAPOLIS: An appeals hearing for Randy Barnes, the world record-holder in the shot who tested positive for a banned substance, will be held in Washington on Saturday.

RUGBY UNION

Bath without eight internationals for game in Toulouse

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BATH will meet Toulouse in the French club's centenary tournament this evening without eight of their internationals. It is a measure of the diversity of opportunity open to rugby players these days that, while Barnes, Swift and Redman stay at home for old-fashioned reasons to do with their employment, Guscott, Chilcott and Robinson will be modelling leisure wear in Malibu.

Andy Robinson, a teacher, replaces Peter Winterbottom for the onerous trip to the United States, though he would doubtless like to join England's first-choice flanker in the national training squad to be announced today. There will be competition for the open-side place also from Gary Rees and Neil Back, with Rees the favourite because of his good form for the Midlands and his considerable experience.

A seventh absent international is Damian Cronin, who is with Scotland A in Spain this weekend. So though it is a stronger party than that which beat the Soviet Union 13-7 in the first round of the Toulouse Masters at the end of last month, it remains nowhere near a fully representative Bath side, taken in conjunction with the long-term absence of the injured England No. 8, David Egerton.

It will be the second meeting between the two clubs this season, with a place in the tournament final at stake. When Toulouse came to Bath in September they, too, were a weakened force and lost 44-6 to a Bath side playing fluent, composed rugby which brought them ten tries. However Toulouse are certain to field a stronger XV tonight, having disposed of Romania 34-17 in the opening round.

The final of the tournament will be on Saturday, Bath or Toulouse playing the winners of the other semi-final between Fiji and Queensland. It will be invaluable experience for such promising young forwards as Haag, Reed and Ojomoh, and also for Tim Reeman, the stand-off half who plays second fiddle to Barnes. His three penalties were a significant factor in the defeat of the Soviet Union.

Mike Teague will miss Gloucester's game at Exeter on Saturday, so as to rest the damaged finger which made him doubtful for last weekend's divisional match.

● Cardiff have taken internal disciplinary action after their hooker, Jonathan Humphreys, was sent off in a case of mistaken identity during the Heineken League match at Swansea on Saturday.

Humphreys, dismissed for an alleged stamping offence, had a threatened ban quashed by the Welsh Rugby Union yesterday — after video evidence revealed the culprit to be his front-row colleague, Paul Edwards.

John Nelson, the Cardiff secretary, said: "We have already taken action — and it's not against Humphreys. The club have considered the events of last Saturday, as a result of which we have taken appropriate disciplinary action, as we have always done in the past."

YACHTING

Davie buoyant on northern course

By BARRY PICKTHALL

AS ALLIED Bank, the leading South African yacht of John Martin, closed last night to within 350 miles of Sydney and the finish of the second stage of the BOC single-handed round the world race. Robin Davie, of Britain, had his fingers crossed that he might recapture the lead of the Corinthian class.

In a radio link, the Cornishman said that he was experiencing more favourable winds than his American rival, Paul Thackaberry, whose leading yacht is tracing a shorter route through the southern ocean 500 miles below Davie. "I think he is facing head winds. He has suddenly been forced even further south than he was 24 hours ago, while I am sailing free in a 40-knot beam wind." Davie said. "We have now closed the gap to within 90 miles and if all goes well, I could break through within 24 hours."

Davie said that Josh Hall, his compatriot sailing the second-placed Class 2 yacht, New Spirit of Ipswich, was still recovering from his knockdown last week. "He has popped his knee joint back into place after dislocating it, but he is in a lot of pain. He has picked up speed again and is doing well."

LEADING POSITIONS (at 02.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Sydney): Class 1: 1, Allied Bank (J Martin, SA), 499 miles; 2, Groupe Scota (C Auguin, Fr), 809; 3, General Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), 829; 4, Credit Agricole (P Jeantot, Fr), 990; 5, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 1,002; 6, Ecureuil PC (I Auneleir, Fr), 1,026; 7, Duracell (M Plant, US), 1,045; 8, Jerkan (K Birtles, Aus), 1,081; 9, BBV Expo '92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 1,152; 10, Grinaker (B Reed, SA), 1,209. Class 2: 1, Servant (Y Dupasquier, Fr), 1,060; 2, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Hall, GB), 1,809; 3, Sponsor Wanted (D McIntyre, Aus), 1,964; 4, Project City Kids (J Boya, US), 2,343; 5, Koden (Y Tada, Japan) 2,966. Corinthian class: 1, Volcano (P Thackaberry, US), 2,389; 2, Global Exposure (R Davie, GB), 2,480; 3, Shutendoji (M Saito, Japan), 2,805; 4, Nihau (R Hooke, US), 3,006.

BADMINTON

Money for Ciniglio's youth plan

CIRO Ciniglio, the most successful manager England have had, yesterday unveiled the first stage of his plans to revive the country's fortunes (Richard Eaton writes).

Ciniglio, who led England to Uber Cup silver and Thomas Cup bronze medals in 1984 and returned to the job earlier this season after five years, has won financial and policy support from the executive committee of the Badminton Association of England for a programme to send young players to big tournaments.

Two new young players are included in a squad of 11 names to go to the Far East trio of tournaments in January. They are Peter Knowles, aged 20, an improved singles player from Kent, and Neil Cottrill, aged 19, a promising doubles player from Cheshire.

Shortly to be named is a select squad of six men and six women who will embark on a six-month training and tournament programme. From this may come new blood to be selected for the world championships in Copenhagen in May.

SQUAD: D Hall (Essex), S Butler (Warwicks), P Knowles (Kent), N Ponting (Gloucs), D Wright (Yorkshire), C Hunt (Lancs), N Cotrill (Cheshire), H Troke (Hants), J Muggeridge (Kent), G Clark (Surrey), G Gowers (Herts).

ROWING

Changes to Henley entry rules

By MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

SUBSTANTIAL qualification rule changes for eights events at Henley Royal regatta were announced by the stewards at their meeting in London yesterday. The changes are "intended to provide closer racing for crews" and to produce rules of general application to encourage clubs to enter their strongest eights.

The Ladies Plate will be upgraded, although it will exclude international crews, who will still race in the Grand. The Ladies, limited to 16 crews, will be the event for senior crews of collegiate universities, such as Oxford, Cambridge and London, and for international lightweight crews, under-23 crews seeking selection, and composite club crews.

"Composite racing name" crews, such as Isis and Goldie, will be barred from the Henley Prize and expected to race in the Thames, although even here the performance of such crews, and of top club first eights, will be considered individually by the stewards and could lead to their elevation to the Ladies. International oarsmen are also barred from the Thames.

The stewards do not foresee an entry of more than ten student crews in the Thames and are allowing 48 crews to race. The Henley Prize will be increased to 32 entries.

Former Olympic and world championships oarsmen will be eligible for the Wyfolds and Britannia eight years after their international appearance.

EQUESTRIANISM

Olympia reaches new peak of popularity

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Olympia championships, which ended late on Monday night with the Crosse and Blackwell grand prix — won by the Dutch national champion, Jos Lansink, on Optiebeurs Egano — was one of the most successful in the show's 19-year history.

Capacity audiences in the 6,600-seat arena on each of the five nights, combined with the highest quality of entries that the director, Raymond Brooks-Ward, says he has seen, confirmed the widely held view that the show is now the most popular in Europe. When it started, in 1972, Brooks-Ward went out onto the street and gave away tickets in an attempt to fill seats.

Lansink, who won the grand prix with the only clear round in the 16-horse jump-off, said: "When we were walking the course we thought it was more 16 horses were clear over it shows what high quality horses there were at Olympia."

The controversial jump-off proved a different matter. Paul Weier, the Swiss course designer, raised the fences three inches to produce a course of massive proportions.

Several riders, including Michael Whitaker, on Henderson Monsanta, who finished third, and David Broome, on Countryman who was sixth, hit the final fence, a wide oxer which had very light cups compared with the unusually deep ones on all the other fences.

Despite the absence of his top horse, Henderson Milton, John Whitaker finished second to Lansink in the prize-money table with £10,080, £180 ahead of his brother, Michael.

RESULT: Crosse and Blackwell grand prix: 1, Optiebeurs Egano (J Lansink, Holland, 0 faults, 35.2 sec); 2, Henderson Milton (J Whitaker, GB, 0, 36.1); 3, Henderson Monsanta (M Whitaker, GB, 0, 36.4); 4, Ratcatcher (N Skelton, GB, 0, 37.1); 5, Ryan's Son (P Schockemohle, Germany, 0, 37.2); 6, Countryman (D Broome, GB, 0, 37.3).

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Malta 1, Netherlands 4 (in Valletta).

Late results on Tuesday

FA CUP: Second round: Mansfield Town 2, York City 1. Second round replays: Peterborough United 2, Wycombe Wanderers 0; Leyton Orient 4, Colchester United 1; Chester City 4, Leek Town 0; Halifax Town 1, Rotherham United 2.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: First round replay: Dumbarton 1, Montrose 4.

BOB LORD TROPHY: Second round: Welling United 1, Barnet 0.

NPS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde 1, Witton 0.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Leicester 1, Derby 1.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Oxford United 0, Brighton 2.

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: First round replay: Ruislip Manor 0, Hendon 1.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: AC Delco Cup: Third round: Harlow 1, Kingstonian 0.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS TROPHY: Fourth round: Barking 5, Torbay 0; Derby 1, Newcastle 1; Brierley Hill 2, Wigan 4; Islington 7, Mansfield 1; Leeds 4, Stafford 0; Southampton 0, Nottingham 2; Wirral 1, Kirkby 2.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS ADIDAS UNDER-19 TROPHY: Northamptonshire 5, Cambridgeshire 1.

MOSCOW: Ignatiev tournament: Finland 7, Canada 3.

REAL TENNIS

BORDEAUX: Coe d'Estourmel French Open championship. Singles final: L Deucher (Aus) bt M Heppell (Aus), 6-1, 6-2, 6-0. Doubles final: C Bray and J Howell (GB) bt R Fahey and P Meares (Aus), 6-4, 6-4.

QUEEN'S CLUB: Field Trophy: Second round: Moreton Morrell bt Queen's Club, 3-2 (Moreton names first: T Granville bt W Manby, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1; Lord Willoughby de Broke lost to H Latham, 1-6, 1-6; P Shaw-Hamilton bt G Atkins, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; J Miller and

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): San Francisco 49ers 28, Los Angeles Rams 10.

TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: British Women's Tennis Association Christmas tournament: First round: V Lake (Devon) bt S Nicholson (Surrey), 7-6, 7-5. K Hand (Berks) bt J Boden (Surrey) 6-0, 6-2; C Billingham (Oxford) bt N Giles (Surrey), 6-4, 6-1; K Hunter (Surrey) bt P Walker (Lincs), 6-2, 6-2; V Davies (S Wales) bt R Miller (Herts), 6-0, 6-2; F Stoner (Surrey) bt A Gorkin (Salop) 6-2, 6-3; H Crook (Essex) bt A Dimer (Lancs), 6-4, 6-2; C Herbert (Herts) bt V Spencer (Rugby), 6-8, 15-3; J Deucher (Harrow) bt M Perry (Wellington), 11-15, 15-11, 15-3; J Veysey (Radley) bt M Segal (Clifton), 15-3, 15-9, P Reiss (Eton) bt C Walsh (Tonbridge), 15-4, 4-15, 15-2. Renny Cup: Third round: R Hunter (Radley) bt S Beacroft (Wellington), 15-9, 15-2; C Livemon (Cheltenham) bt A Wilson (Cheltenham), 15-5, 5-15, 15-2; A De Cassene (Harrow) bt B Newman (Clifton), 15-10, 15-0; J Baird (Tonbridge) bt J Harrison (Radley), 13-18, 15-8, 15-3; P Kemp (Tonbridge) bt A Sewell (Radley), 15-12, 15-11; C Mederson (Tonbridge) bt M Dawson (Clifton), 15-0, 15-9; A Soammell (Malvern) bt T Turnill (Rugby), 15-7, 15-4; A Montaiuit (Eton) bt J Holmes (Clifton), 15-9, 15-2. Inchdon-Webber Cup (under-16): First round: H Fosser (Harrow) bt R Pick (Charterhouse), 15-0, 15-2; T Newman (Wellington) bt G Ladenberg (Charterhouse), 15-3, 15-0; M Spencer-Nairn (Eton) bt T Sheehan (Malvern), 15-4, 15-18, 15-2; H Green (Rugby) bt A Stoey (Haileybury), 15-6, 15-3; J Hands (Tonbridge) bt D Lambert (Malvern), 15-4, 15-10.

SHOOTING

STAMFORTH CHALLENGE CUP (schools postal smallbore match): 1, Berkhamsted, 792 [illegible]

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools championships: Jim Deer Cup (under-15): Second round: P Stafford (Haileybury) bt S Roundell (Harrow), 14-18, 15-11, 15-8, R Carter (Rugby) bt C Wigan (Eton), 15-4, 15-8; C Cannon (Marlborough) bt H Dingle (Eton), 15-13, 16-17, 15-10; G Pessell (Charterhouse) bt I Mogford (Malvern), 15-1, 15-6; R Pittaway (Winchester) bt M Tate (Charterhouse), 11-15, 15-7, 15-5; W Blackwell (Eton) bt L Pasquale (Marlborough), 17-18, 15-12; M Bellhouse (Radley) bt J Beswick (Malvern), 15-7, 15-7; R Hill (Malvern) bt A Whitefield (Radley), 15-11, 15-1; C Charlton (Tonbridge) bt R Wright (Radley), 15-0, 15-1; C Graham (Rugby) bt R Spencer (Rugby), 15-8, 15-3; J Deucher (Harrow) bt M Perry (Wellington), 11-15, 15-11, 15-3; J Veysey (Radley) bt M Segal (Clifton), 15-3, 15-9, P Reiss (Eton) bt C Walsh (Tonbridge), 15-4, 4-15, 15-2. Renny Cup: Third round: R Hunter (Radley) bt S Beacroft (Wellington), 15-9, 15-2; C Livemon (Cheltenham) bt A Wilson (Cheltenham), 15-5, 5-15, 15-2; A De Cassene (Harrow) bt B Newman (Clifton), 15-10, 15-0; J Baird (Tonbridge) bt J Harrison (Radley), 13-18, 15-8, 15-3; P Kemp (Tonbridge) bt A Sewell (Radley), 15-12, 15-11; C Mederson (Tonbridge) bt M Dawson (Clifton), 15-0, 15-9; A Soammell (Malvern) bt T Turnill (Rugby), 15-7, 15-4; A Montaiuit (Eton) bt J Holmes (Clifton), 15-9, 15-2. Inchdon-Webber Cup (under-16): First round: H Fosser (Harrow) bt R Pick (Charterhouse), 15-0, 15-2; T Newman (Wellington) bt G Ladenberg (Charterhouse), 15-3, 15-0; M Spencer-Nairn (Eton) bt T Sheehan (Malvern), 15-4, 15-18, 15-2; H Green (Rugby) bt A Stoey (Haileybury), 15-6, 15-3; J Hands (Tonbridge) bt D Lambert (Malvern), 15-4, 15-10.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta Hawks 109, Cleveland Cavaliers 98; Utah Jazz 105, New Jersey Nets 98.

KELVIN HALL, Glasgow: Youth Olympiad 1990: Boys: Final: Asturias (Sp) 85, Helsinki 38. Third place: Liverpool 85, Sintendoye 20. Fifth place: Cardiff 40, Dublin 30. Girls: Final:

IN BRIEF

Revenge for 49ers

THE San Francisco 49ers won their eighteenth successive away game in a 26-10 National Football League victory over the Los Angeles Rams, avenging their only defeat of the season.

The Rams were eliminated from play-off contention.

● Frankfurt Galaxy will represent Germany in the fledgling World League of American Football.

BOWLS: Three former world indoor champions, David Bryant, Tony Allcock and Richard Corsie, challenge for the Mackeson Fylde Classic at Blackpool on December 29 and 30.

● Ann Smith, Maureen Tanner and Jealian Willis will make their first appearances for Wales in the home international indoor series at Prestwick next March.

WINTER OLYMPICS: About 800,000 tickets for the 1992 Games in Albertville went on sponsors and other involved financial organisations.

GOLF: The Golfing Union of Ireland has refused to bring forward the date for its national championship next year and the winner will, therefore, miss automatic selection for the Walker Cup. Ironically, the trophy is being defended at Portmarnock, Dublin, on September 5 and 6 — the first time the competition has been held on Irish soil.

TENNIS: Amanda Grunfeld proved her recovery from a serious back injury by beating Debbie James, 6-1, 6-1, in the second round of the British Women's Tennis Association Christmas tournament yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Extra time will be played, if necessary, in the Regal Trophy semi-finals.

Pérez keeps title

Raúl Pérez retained his World Boxing Council bantamweight title for the seventh time when he knocked out his Mexican compatriot, Candelario Car-

Three-match ban on Adams is upheld by FA

By Louise Taylor

THE Football Association yesterday announced that it was upholding a three-match suspension automatically imposed on Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender, when he was sent off for a professional foul at Luton on December 8. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, expressed sadness at the decision, from which there is no right of appeal.

Philip Don, the referee at Kenilworth Road, ruled that Adams was guilty of the so-called professional foul when he prevented Iain Dowie from scoring for Luton. Many observers believed that Adams, who had never previously been dismissed, was attempting to play the ball but succeeded only in unbalancing Dowie as the forward approached goal, and that a penalty would have been sufficient punishment.

Don believed he was adhering to a directive from Fifa, the game's governing body, issued last summer demanding the red card for professional fouls. However, interpretation of the directive is highly subjective and Graham said: "If that was a professional foul will referees send every player off when a foul, other than a handball, is committed in the penalty area.?"

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), was so outraged at Adams's sending off that he wrote to the FA to prevent a serious "miscarriage of justice". Taylor hoped the FA would allow Adams to prove his innocence with video evidence, enabling the FA to override the dismissal, along with its automatic three-match ban.

But Glen Kirton, the head of external affairs for the FA, said: "The system of automatic suspensions for sendings-off and a fixed number of cautions was brought in because the old system was administratively unworkable. Players could appeal against every booking and sending-off, and it could go on forever.

"The automatic system was brought in with the agreeement of the PFA and the referees, so the PFA cannot really complain now.

"The question of video evidence is separate. It has been claimed that it is unfair because we can use videos to find a player guilty but the players cannot use them to prove themselves innocent, but that is not just the situation. We do not use video evidence for automatic suspensions. As far as we are concerned this is not really an issue."

Graham said: "I am disappointed that the suspension was upheld when we had the backing of Gordon Taylor. It has always been my opinion that the Fifa directive on the professional foul is open to differing interpretations.

"Managers and coaches and referees and the governing bodies seem to be on different wavelengths when it comes to interpreting the directive. But of the people that saw Tony Adams sent off at Luton, 99 per cent thought it was not a serious incident and that is why Gordon Taylor took up the case. Tony is obviously very disappointed." Adams will miss Arsenal's matches against Aston Villa, Derby County and Sheffield United.

The disciplinary fate of Neil Webb, the England and Manchester United midfield player, remained unresolved yesterday. Webb was sent off during the England B match in Algeria last week, but the FA is still waiting for a report on the incident from the Tunisian referee.

Norwegian capitalises on Tomba fall

Heading for glory: Furuseth, of Norway, secured a surprise World Cup slalom victory in Madonna di Campiglio yesterday, after Tomba, the favourite from Italy, fell on his second run. Report, page 32

Tyson's date against Ruddock

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

MIKE Tyson will meet Donovan Ruddock, of Canada, at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas on March 18. According to the hotel, the deal has been signed and the bout, which will be over 12 rounds, will go on whether or not the World Boxing Council (WBC) strips Evander Holyfield of the title.

Don King, Tyson's promoter and adviser, had said after Tyson knocked out Alex Stewart in the first round on December 8 that he was hoping the bout would be for the vacant title if the WBC was successful in its action.

But the world body, which was talking of stripping Holyfield for defending against George Foreman before Tyson, was unable to move against the undisputed world champion when his backers, the Duva family, secured a temporary restraining order against the WBC.

The case has now been referred to arbitration and the WBC has agreed to abide by the court's decision.

Tyson's bout against Ruddock is the first of a $129 million series planned by King and Showtime, the American cable television company. Tyson is expected to be the beneficiary of the deal but should he lose, Ruddock will meet the winner of the world championship contest between Holyfield and Foreman in June.

In between, Tyson will have at least one warm-up contest against one of the winners of fight-offs between Francesco Damiani, of Italy and Ray Mercer, of the United States, and between the two Britons, Gary Mason, the British champion and Lennox Lewis, the European title holder.

Tyson is ranked No. 1 and Ruddock No. 2.

Suspension of referee adds to the confusion

By Clive White

THE first known suspension of a referee in England, following a misinterpretation of the new edict from Fifa, the game's governing body, on the "professional foul", highlighted the inconsistency with which the law was being applied by Football League referees, Graham Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said yesterday.

Graham Pooley, of Bishop's Stortford, has been suspended for one game by the League's referees sub-committee for "an error of judgment in interpreting the mandatory instruction from the International Board".

Pooley sent off Ronnie Robinson, of Rotherham United, for deliberate handball when the player prevented a goal from being scored in a 4-2 defeat by Bournemouth on November 10. The Fifa directive only allows for a sending off in the event of a physical foul.

"The difference in interpretation of the professional foul directive this season has caused no end of confusion and frustration," Taylor said.

"A head of steam is building up among players and managers." Not only over this, he said, but also the offside law about when a player is or is not interfering with play.

Taylor was annoyed that the efforts which had been made to improve discipline over the past four years were being undermined by an exaggerated application of the Fifa directive.

Up until the end of last month 90 players had been sent off compared with 83 for the corresponding period last season – 25 of those dismissed for the professional foul. "I can't believe that the rest of the world is applying the directive in the same way that we are," Taylor said.

"We have taken it further than Fifa intended or further than we initially intended when we introduced it in the early Eighties."

While Taylor thought that in the case of Pooley, the League was taking a "sledge hammer approach" to a mistake that the referee in question freely admitted, he did think that it was about time that referees were held accountable for their mistakes, in the same way that players and managers were.

The day was dawning, Taylor said, when the need to upgrade the fitness and efficiency of referees in England would require them to be full-time professionals.

"A great deal of concern is being expressed by players and managers about the standards of refereeing. No one expects them to be robot-like and perfectly consistent but I think we need to start from a base where at least everybody understands what should be done and how it should be interpreted.

"At the moment we don't even have a bedrock of interpretation," Taylor said.

European draws, page 33

League computer blamed

LIVERPOOL are among those clubs unhappy with the Football League's Boxing Day fixture programme, arranged by computer, which has given them a round trip of 480 miles for a match with Queen's Park Rangers that will start at noon.

Also facing long journeys to London for matches that kick off at midday are **Sunderland**, at **Crystal Palace**, and **Oldham**, at **West Ham**.

"This is a very difficult fixture for us, and even more so for our supporters," Peter Robinson, the Liverpool chief executive, said yesterday. "There will be no trains, so they will have to travel by road. I will be going that way myself and it will mean leaving home at 6am.

"We haven't complained to the League because they have made it quite plain that the fixtures have got to stand. This is one of our worst Christmas fixtures for many years and some clubs are even worse off. I know a lot are dissatisfied."

Carlisle face a long trek to **Cardiff** to fulfil their fourth-division fixture, **Darlington** are at **Aldershot** while **Barnsley** must travel 290 miles for their second-division match at **Plymouth**.

"We think it is unreasonable that we should have this fixture," the secretary of the Yorkshire club, Michael Spinks, said. "It will mean travelling on Christmas Day and I am sure we will pass **Swindon** on the motorway on their way to **Newcastle**.

A League spokesman, Ian Cotton, denied that the Boxing Day programme involved more travelling than in previous years. "Where possible we try to arrange fixtures so that clubs have games within a certain distance," he said. "But policing requirements often prevent this and it is very difficult to rearrange games because of the dislocation this would cause to the overall programme. We have had no more complaints than usual."

Richard Thompson, the chairman of **Queen's Park Rangers**, yesterday refuted suggestions that he was interested in buying **Tottenham Hotspur** and gave a firm commitment to his own club.

Clive Berlin, the managing director, said he believed Tottenham's financial problems and talk about a new contract for their manager, Terry Venables, had led to speculation.

"It is a complete nonsense. There have been no talks with anyone about the sale of our club," Berlin said. Venables dismissed reports that he might take over as chairman at QPR as "pure fiction".

Cyrille Regis, who will be 33 in February, is to be offered a new contract by **Coventry City**. "I have never seen him play better than he is at the moment," Terry Butcher, the player-manager said yesterday.

Andy Hill, a right back, has joined **Manchester City** from **Bury** on loan for three months with a view to a permanant transfer. Hill, the Bury captain, moved to Gigg Lane on a free transfer from Manchester United six years ago.

Oldham Athletic are giving a trial to the Norwegian international defender, Gunnar Hale, aged 25, who can play at right back or centre half.

Beckenbauer may quit

PARIS (Agencies) – Franz Beckenbauer is ready to resign as manager of Olympique Marseilles football club unless his working conditions are changed. Beckenbauer told French radio from London yesterday that "there are things that I will not stand for at the club and that must change . . . or I must leave".

Beckenbauer said he planned to meet Bernard Tapie, the Marseilles president, over the next few weeks to discuss the issue and his future depended on that meeting.

Marseilles, whose team includes Chris Waddle, the England player, have a three-point lead at the top of the French League, but Beckenbauer's tactics have been criticised by Tapie.

Meeting to query ABA rule

By Louise Taylor

THE SPORTS Council has demanded a meeting with the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) today to explain why four women officials were forced to resign from executive positions with the ABA.

The Sports Council gives the sport an annual grant of £150,000. George Wimpey, which has given the ABA more than £500,000 in sponsorship over the past ten years, seeks a written explanation.

A 12-year-old regulation was invoked after Carmel Carney, the former treasurer of the South-east division, applied to become assistant secretary with the ABA. She did not get the job and lost her South-east division post. Three other female ABA area officers, Linda Shaw, Ann May, and Linda Setford, have been forced to abandon executive positions with Surrey, Kent, and Southern Counties, respectively.

Carney said: "The Sports Council is considering withdrawing its grant. Wimpey are not happy, and our case is being considered by the Equal Opportunities Commission. The ABA is acting in the interests of the old school tie rather than boxing."

Richard Tatham, of George Wimpey, said: "We are incensed about what has happened. It is too early for us to make any decision about the sponsorship."

A Sports Council spokeswoman said: "What the ABA has done is against the principle of the Sports Council. We want to encourage women's involvement in sport."

Consistency secures Lendl championship

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

IVAN Lendl was yesterday named official world champion for the fourth time by the International Tennis Federation. Lendl, the Australian Open champion, was surprisingly chosen ahead of Stefan Edberg, who won Wimbledon, overpowering Lendl in the semi-final, and who reached the final of the Australian Open before retiring with an injury.

The panel of Tony Trabert, Fred Perry and Frank Sedgman decided in favour of the former world No. 1 because of his greater consistency throughout the year. "This was the toughest decision any of us can remember having to make since we have been on the panel," an official statement from the panel said. "Obviously Edberg's claim was strong, but we were disappointed by his inconsistency in the grand slams."

Edberg, whose rise to No. 1 on the ATP Tour would not have been taken into consideration, was beaten in the first round of the French and US opens and in the first round of last week's Grand Slam Cup.

Lendl, who reached the quarter-final of Wimbledon and the US Open, won 16 matches in his three grand slam tournaments (he did not play the French) to Edberg's 13 in four. Lendl, world champion for three years between 1985 and 1987, and Steffi Graf, the women's world champion, will be honoured in Paris in May.

Davis guaranteed success

By Steve Acteson

STEVE Davis and Fred Davis, who have won the world snooker championship 14 times between them, will meet in the first round of the new £1 million Sky World Masters to be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from January 13 to 26. The draw was made in London yesterday.

The men's singles – there are also women's singles, men's, women's and mixed doubles, a junior event and a total entry of 331 players from 47 countries – boasts a record first prize of £200,000.

Steve Davis is not dismissing his opponent, aged 77, out of hand. He said: "There are people coming into this event who have never played snooker properly, and think they can pick it up after a week or so of practice simply because they are good at pool or billiards. I'm looking forward to seeing their faces when they find out what tournament snooker is really about.

"To be playing Fred may look like an easy draw, but I won't be taking him lightly. Fred knows his way around the table, and will take his chances, if he gets any."

The first-round draw also paired Jimmy White, the world No. 4, with Sam Chong, from Malaysia, the champion of Asia, who has made five maximum breaks in practice and 141 in a tournament.

Terry Griffiths, the former world champion, has a potentially difficult opponent in Bjorn L'Orange, of Norway, who was a semi-finalist in the recent world amateur championship. Of all the unknown names, the longest is Juan Francisco Taylor Castenada, nationality unknown, a resident of Panama, who, despite having played billiards since the age of ten, has never played snooker.

On his entry form, however, he expressed confidence that a few weeks of practice would bring him up to the necessary level of proficiency. His Egyptian opponent, Mohamed el Kamah, twice the Cairo champion, will hope to disillusion him.

Stephen Hendry, the tournament favourite, who is smarting from his defeat by Jimmy White in the world matchplay final at the weekend, will play either of two English journeymen professionals, Ken Owers or Robert Marshall, in his opening match.

Grand prix red light for scheme to turn 'green'

By John Blunsden

COMMENT

MOTOR racing's leading teams and the oil industry, concerned with making the public more aware of the sport's environmental responsibilities, are involved in a controversy over proposed regulations governing the specification of fuels for Formula One grand prix racesin 1991.

Fisa, the international governing body of motor racing, has stated that leaded and unleaded fuel will continue to be permitted next year; the announcement implied that the oil companies involved in Formula One had given their unanimous support. Shell International Petroleum yesterday categorically denied that it backed the use of leaded fuel.

The point at issue is that under the new rules leaded fuel will still be allowed during 1991, despite an

The case for the mandatory use of unleaded fuel from 1991 onwards was made strongly at a meeting convened by Fisa on November 13, and Shell underlined its support for the initiative in a letter to the governing body on December 5. "We very much regret that our representations now appear to have been ignored," a Shell spokesman said yesterday.

The Honda Marlboro McLaren team, whose drivers have won the world championship for the past three seasons, has used unleaded Shell fuel for two thirds of the races throughout that period. During 1991 only unleaded fuel will be supplied to the team. "Shell is in

arduous conditions and in the most advanced machinery," the company said. "The future lies with unleaded gasolines."

Most of the other leading teams are also taking the "green" route. Elf, which supplies fuel for the Renault-powered Williams team, and Mobil, whose fuel is used in the Benetton-Fords, both support the philosophy that unleaded fuels should become mandatory.

However, the stumbling block is the special "qualifying" fuel which Agip has been supplying to Ferrari, giving the Italian team a performance advantage that it is unlikely to sacrifice lightly.

John Barnard, Benetton Ford's technical director, who has been in the forefront of the movement to give Formula One a greater sense of environmental consciousness, is

amounts to very little. "Certainly, I would have liked to see leaded fuels banned and I know I am not alone in this. But I am also sorry that so little seems to have been done to get rid of the more exotic performance-enhancing ingredients that have been used recently.

"There should have been a much more drastic reduction, both in the permitted components of fuels and of their percentages. I argued long and hard along these lines. If only we had got down to this problem earlier we might have stood a better chance of getting the sort of regulations we really need."

It would appear that a golden opportunity has been missed to place Formula One centre-stage in the quest for a cleaner and more acceptable environment. At no time in the sport's history has it enjoyed such widespread support from the world's motor industry, at a time when its principal research and development activities are concentrated on the more efficient use of fuels and a reduction of their exhaust emissions. By making formula One 100 per cent "green", the role of grand prix racing as an advanced-technology example for the benefit of the community at large would have been underlined.

Meanwhile, the prospect of once again being confronted by the acrid and at time nauseous fumes of those exotic fuel brews will bring little comfort to those at the heart of Formula One who spend so much time in the pit and paddock areas. If only for the wellbeing of those involved, never has the need for Formula One to clean up its act in this respect been more urgent.